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Govt owes $17.3M to health care providers. PAGE 2

CDA approves changes to call center's QC. PAGE 3

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of September 30, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Instant Coffee
Starbucks is making a push to convince connoisseurs to sample a down-market drink–instant coffee.
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'Thank You'
A simple thank you letter from a fifth grader in San Vicente Elementary School makes the world go round for an active servicemember.
CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

Babauta makes 1st visit to CNMI as Interior assistant secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tony Babauta, the newly sworn-in U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, will be arriving today on Saipan for a series of meetings with key government and private sector leaders starting Thursday.

This is Babauta's first visit to the CNMI in his new position with the Obama administration.

As Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, a position that was re-established after more than 15 years of absence, Babauta will coordinate federal policy for the CNMI, Guam, the U.S.

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Govt spending exceeds collection by $5.93M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government spending of $38.27 million in April to June exceeded collections of $32.34 million in taxes and fees, according to the latest CNMI Economic Indicators Report released by the Department of Commerce.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the $5.93 million difference is consistent with

See GOVT on Page 4

No-smoking bill now a law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Before you light that cigarette, think again.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday a measure that bans smoking in virtually all areas in the CNMI, except in private residences, most private bars, casinos, and departure terminal of airports.

With the governor's enactment of the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008, smoking is now prohibited in government facilities, schools, places of employment and public places—a development that was hailed by health advocates, non-smokers, and

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos joins Department of Public Health officials and staff, cancer survivors, and other community members in a group photo yesterday morning on Capital Hill after signing a proclamation declaring October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. DPH said mammogram, an X-ray picture of the breast, is the most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt in women who are at least 40 years old. Mammogram service is available at DPH.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

UFO launches fund drive for RP typhoon victims

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has launched a fundraising drive to help victims of Typhoon Ketsana, which killed more than 240 in the Philippines and devastated wide swaths of the capital over the weekend.

A woman and her son ride an improvised float as they negotiate a flooded village in suburban Pasig, east of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday Sept. 29, 2009.

UFO president Olive Yana said they have re-activated all member organizations to help in the dissemination of information about the fund drive.

UFO is urging the Filipino community on Saipan and other members of the public who want to help to give whatever amount they can for the victims.

Only cash donations would be accepted at this time because it is the fastest way to provide aid, Yana said.

The last time the UFO held a fund drive, it encountered problems with clearance and shipping arrangements for in-kind donations.

"We had problems with the shipment. This is an emergency situation and

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RELATED NEWS
Philippine death toll rises, as new storms brew.
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Local

Govt owes $17.3M to health care providers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has incurred a cumulative debt of $17.3 million to various health care providers and other vendors to date, based on a report of the Retirement Fund.

The figure includes a $15.2 million obligation to government health care providers and the runoff claims by Aetna before and after the group health insurance was privatized.

Saipan Tribune learned that the government owes $1.6 million for pre-Aetna runoff claims; $188,000 in runoff claims prior to November 2007; $99,000 owned to Aetna; and $101,000 owed to vendors.

A big bulk of the $15.2 million obligation is owed the Commonwealth Health Center, which awaits payment of $14.8 million as of August 2009.

The Tinian Health Center also expects to collect from the government $247,214 for health care services, while the Rota Health Center is owed $192,239.

The Guam Memorial Hospital also expects to collect $6,797 for services it rendered to Commonwealth residents.

The Fund described the government obligation as "aged payables."

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday the Fitial administration is more concerned with the debt to private health care providers and insurance carriers.

"The $15.2 million is a debt to the CNMI government. It is a debt the government owes itself. I think we are more concerned about the debt to private health care providers and to private insurance carriers," Reyes said.

He said that what is needed to address the problem is a legislative appropriation that will identify funding to pay the "aged" obligations.

Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, admitted yesterday that the House has yet to identify a solution to this problem, citing the absence of a clear notification from the Executive Branch.

He explained that the governor's budget proposal for next fiscal year allocates just $1.2 million to pay for the runoff claims of Aetna.

Yumul said his committee needs more details about the cumulative debt before it could come up with a specific appropriation bill to address it.

He said he may introduce a provision relating to the issue under House Bill 16-275.

"We have to ask the administration or Finance more details about this $17.3 million debt so that we can analyze the issue and know the reason why the government accumulated such debt," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

A law enacted in June 1996 transferred the administration of the Group Health and Life Insurance programs to the NMI Retirement Fund and created a trust fund to ensure that government employees are provided with health insurance benefits.

During a recent board meeting, Fund comptroller David Demapan reported that GHLI's net assets is in deficit as of Aug. 31, 2009.

"When the total liabilities of $18.7 million exceed the total assets of $744,000, a deficit fund balance of $17.9 million is incurred," Demapan said.

He said the deficit fund balances represent liabilities in excess of assets available to pay for debts.

Under Public Law 10-19, the CNMI government would ultimately be liable for the liabilities of the trust fund, not the Fund.

Demapan also disclosed that GHLI recorded a 4-percent drop in revenue estimates as of last month.

For the 11-month period ending Aug. 31, 2009, the Fund recorded total revenues of $12.3 million compared to a $12.8 million estimate for the fiscal year.

The comptroller said the drop was mainly caused by the 12.9 percent rate hike on Nov. 1, 2008.

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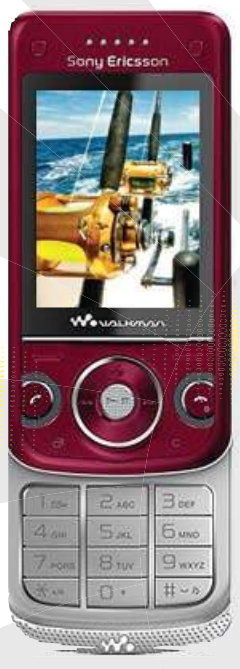

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Tropical depression may become a tropical storm

Tropical Depression 18W is showing signs of intensifying into a tropical storm as it continued heading toward the southern Marianas yesterday.

As this developed, as of 5pm yesterday a tropical storm warning remains in effect for Yap and Ngulu as Tropical Storm Parma (19W) was moving west with maximum sustained winds at 60 miles per hour.

Because of the anticipated threat of Tropical Depression 18W, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial maintained tropical condition III for Rota.

In an advisory issued at 5:15pm yesterday, the Emergency Management Office said Tropical Depression 18W could become a tropical storm in the next 36 hours. It had maximum sustained winds of 35 mph.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, as of 4pm, the center of Tropical Depression 18W was 420 miles east-southeast of Rota, 430 miles east-southeast of Guam, and 270 miles north-northwest of Chuuk.

"Residents of the southern Marianas should closely monitor the development and movement of Tropical Depression 18W," the NWS said.

NWS predicts damaging winds and heavy rain to accompany the tropical depression as it tracks near the Marianas.

The center of the tropical depression is expected to pass near southern Guam late Wednesday night.

As of 4pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Parma (19W) was 100 miles east-southeast of Ngulu, 130 miles south-southeast of Yap, and 310 miles east of Koror. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2009, at the Governor's Conference room, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   a. Roll call
   b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business

   a. Public Education CEC-001
   b. Proposed Emergency Regulations

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Naraja agrees to place Calvo under house arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has placed Patrick Mendiola Calvo under house arrest while the convicted sex offender awaits his sentencing.

Naraja allowed Calvo's older brother, Anthony Calvo, to serve as the defendant's third-party custodian.

Naraja imposed many conditions for the house arrest, including a daily curfew, for Patrick Calvo to stay away from the victim and other girls under 18 years old, thrice-a-week calls to authorities, and to stay away from seaports and airports.

The judge also required the third-party custodian to surrender his two guns to the police. Naraja said the bail shall remain at $15,000 cash.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher asked the court to revoke Patrick Calvo's bail, saying the man is now a convicted felon and sex offender.

"He poses a danger to the community. This defendant is a serial sex offender," Gallagher said.

He said Calvo should be remanded to the Department of Corrections, not only for the safety of the community but also to Calvo himself "who is perhaps suicidal."

As a convicted felon and sex offender, Gallagher said, Calvo is no longer entitled to bail.

Gallagher also opposed allowing Anthony Calvo as a third-party custodian as Anthony was not truthful in his testimony about his fight with then two co-employees at the Emergency Management Office.

Anthony Calvo, who retired from EMO in 2007, admitted that the Office of Personnel Management had made him undergo anger management counseling.

"Since my counseling, I've been able to control my anger," Anthony Calvo said.

Defense attorney G. Anthony Long said the law allows his client to be released temporarily, pending sentencing.

Long said there's been no allegations of any kind against Patrick Calvo for over a year now since the start of this case. Long said the court can impose additional terms and conditions for his continued release.

On Monday, jurors found the 47-year-old Calvo guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2008.

The jurors pronounced Calvo guilty of sexual assault in the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Naraja found the businessman guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace. The judge decided on the misdemeanor charges.

The sentencing was set for Nov. 30, 2009.

It was not the first time Calvo faced allegations of sexual abuse of minors. In 2000, the Office of the Attorney General filed two criminal cases against him for allegedly sexually abusing two minor girls in 1997 and 1998.

The cases dragged on for years in the local courts. In one case, the jury acquitted Calvo. In November 2005, the court dismissed the second case after the OAG moved to drop the charges.

8 Alamagan residents evacuated, four Agrihan residents opt to stay

The remaining eight residents of Alamagan were safely evacuated to Saipan early yesterday morning, but the four residents of Agrihan opted to stay on the island.

John Takai Camacho, Emergency Management Office geophysical seismic technician/supervisor, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the fishing vessel Blue Marlin arrived on Saipan with eight Alamagan residents.

"We're supposed to take everybody down. But I think they [four Agrihan residents] insisted to stay," Camacho said. "We cannot force them."

Camacho said he doesn't know yet where the eight Alamagan residents are going to take shelter.

Six Alamagan residents, including a newborn baby, were flown to Saipan on a U.S. Navy helicopter last Sept. 17. The six are now housed at the American Red Cross shelter at the Saipan airport.

While Alamagan was greatly damaged by Super Typhoon Choi-Wan, Agrihan had only minor damage to property, Camacho said.

During his visit to Agrihan a few days after the super typhoon, he saw two houses standing.

Blue Marlin left Saipan on Friday for its run to Alamagan and Agrihan.

EMO reportedly contracted Blue Marlin for $12,000 to pick up the 12 remaining residents of Alamagan and Agrihan. The boat is owned by CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro.

A boat captain had earlier questioned if Blue Marlin is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers. EMO assistant supervisor for operations Ed Rabauliman had assured that Ogumoro's vessel is U.S. Coast Guard certified.

Due to devastation of Alamagan and Agrihan, the government wants to evacuate all the remaining residents of the islands.

Super Typhoon Choi-Wan's center passed directly over Alamagan last Sept. 15, packing 150 to 160 miles per hour winds. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CDA approves changes to call center's QC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has approved a new qualifying certificate for PTI Services Inc., the island's lone call center business, which earlier asked for changes to its existing tax breaks.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the board made the decision during Saturday's meeting, during which PTI representatives presented further justifications to their request.

CDA was scheduled to transmit yesterday to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial its recommendation for a modified QC for the call center. The governor has 45 days to act on CDA's recommendation.

Sablan refused yesterday to disclose the specifics of the board's recommendation. He noted, though, that the decision was a "win-win" situation for both the company and the government.

"I cannot disclose the specifics of the board's action… but essentially what the board did was it reviewed the modification request and invited the company's representatives to clarify and justify their requests. The board wanted to support this business…" he said, citing economic and employment factors as the main reasons behind the board's recommendation.

According to Rob Harrel, executive director of PTI Services Inc.'s contact centers division, they are elated with CDA's decision.

He disclosed that the call center was approved 100 percent abatement of BGRT until it reaches the investment cap of $3.2 million.

Harrel said this decision gives PTI Services the ability to compete with similar companies in the Philippines and India.

He cited that in the Philippines, call center businesses pay their representatives $350 per month, compared to Saipan's rate of almost $1,500 monthly.

CDA's Sablan said the call center can always return to CDA for further QC modifications if they have further investments to make for the business.

Sablan said CDA is optimistic that Fitial will approve the recommendations.

Before the modification request, PTI Services Inc. was provided 20 years BGRT relief, based on 5 percent of projected wages and salaries.

PTI Services Inc. earlier said that it may recall its expansion plans and may move to other countries if it fails to get the additional incentives.

The company was asking for 100 percent abatement in business gross revenue tax for 20 years, a five-year excise tax abatement, and 10-year income tax abatement.

The additional incentives, it said, will help the company defray the expected impact of higher labor wages due to the impending federalization, which may be as high as 30 percent.

The company also disclosed that it has been working hard to expand and promote the call center operation but its cost projections, despite the current QC incentives, continue to put them at a competitive cost disadvantage to companies from other jurisdictions offering similar services.

Fitial approved the call center's first qualifying certificate in July for an initial investment of $3.2 million.

NO SMOKING

From Page 1

even smokers who want to quit.

House Bill 16-47, HD2, SD1, CCS1 is now Public Law 16-46.

The sweeping smoking ban law means if any member of the Legislature, for example, wants to smoke cigarettes outside, he or she needs to be at least 26 feet away from the legislative building's doorway entrance or exit on Capital Hill.

At least 13 of 29 lawmakers smoke cigarettes or cigars.

Violators face a fine of up to $200 and completion of a mandatory tobacco prevention and/or cessation course, while owners of places where the violation occurs face a fine of up to $500 and revocation of a business license.

Fitial, a non-smoker, has long hailed private and public entities that have volunteered to ban smoking in their premises even before the enactment of any law prohibiting smoking, including Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tony Roma's and Capricciosa.

Under the new law, smoking is prohibited in all enclosed government facilities, including office buildings, warehouses and vehicles.

Smoking is also not allowed within 25 feet of any doorway entrance or exit to a government facility or building.

'Long awaited'

George J. Cruz, chairman of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, said yesterday the new law has been a long awaited and much needed measure to reduce the overall health care costs, provide a healthier environment for the community and visitors, and decrease many of the chronic diseases related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

The measure adopts the findings of the Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, which states that secondhand smoke is a known cancer-causing agent that is associated with an increased risk of lung cancer and coronary heart disease in nonsmoking adults.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia in young children.

"The health of our community has finally been recognized; that this is not only more costly, but more of a priority and outweighs tobacco products and sales," Cruz told Saipan Tribune.

Cruz, who drummed up support for the no-smoking bill, said the effects of the new law "will be felt and seen not this year, or even next but within five to 10 years down the line."

"Our grandchildren and great grandchildren will feel the healthy affects of this measure as our lawmakers have taken a bold step to make the CNMI healthier and smoke free. We want to thank [Rep.] Justo Quitugua, the author of the bill, [Rep.] Ralph Torres, chairman for the Health, Education and Welfare Committee, and Speaker Arnold Palacios and Vice Speaker Joseph Guerrero for their untiring support to push the bill through the process and to continuously open their doors and ears to the concerns and advocacy of the Coalition and our many partners," he added.

Sweeping smoking ban

The new law also bans smoking in public places, including libraries, museums, banks, Laundromats, hotels, motels, public and private educational facilities, elevators, movie houses, health care facilities, and licensed child care and adult care facilities.

Others include polling places, buses and taxicabs, restaurants, including other attached bars, restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways and other common-use areas, supermarkets, retail food outlets, department stores, retail stores, service lines, shopping malls, and sports arenas.

Also falling under public places where smoking is banned are lobbies, hallways and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities.

"On behalf of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, our partners the Community Guidance Center Prevention Office and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, along with our many advocates, supporters, and community coalitions, we are very ecstatic about the passing of the CNMI Smoke-Free Air Act by the House and the Senate this September, and are even more enthusiastic that the governor has signed the Smoke-Free Air Act into law," said Cruz.

Enforcement

Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), author of the no-smoking bill, said the more important task now is enforcement of the law by the Department of Public Health or an authorized designee.

He, however, said individual members of the community have the responsibility to report any violation to DPH or the Department of Public Safety.

"I'm very happy and grateful for the governor's support of the bill. Hopefully with the new law, we will see a decrease in diseases related to smoking, and a decrease in medical costs associated with smoking," said Quitugua, a non-smoker.

He also hopes that "people will now take more seriously the effects of smoking and second-hand smoke."

"This law will provide a healthier environment for all of us, especially our children," he added.

Cruz, for his part, said "the real work begins" by implementing education and awareness campaigns over the next year or so "to ensure that businesses and government agencies take responsibility to enforce this healthy measure in the workplace."

"The coalitions will also work closely with the community to produce needed signage, education, training and other technical assistance to make the transition smoother not just for the organization themselves, but especially for their staff and other personnel who are non-smokers and smokers alike," he said.

'Comply with the law'

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said he expects all members of the House and staffers to comply with the new law.

"We support it, we passed it and we will comply with it," said Palacios, a smoker who wants to quit.

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), also a smoker, said the new law is also good for those who want to quit.

"The law is good not only for those who smoke but for those who smoke and want to quit. I'm trying to quit, too," he said.

Cruz hopes that the community will come together to embrace the new law and take a "personal step to a healthier lifestyle."

The governor signed the measure into law some three weeks after the House passed it on Sept. 9 with 14 members present voting "yes" and one abstention. The Senate passed it on Sept. 3 on a 7-0 vote.

Anti-smoking posters and banners urging support on H.B. 16-47 were posted on the Senate and House chamber's wall during the sessions attended by health advocates.

The bill also earned regional support, including those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii and Guam, as well as the U.S. mainland.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

Virgin Islands and American Samoa with other Executive Branch agencies.

On Thursday morning, Babauta will be meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the governor is expected to discuss with Babauta important federal issues, such as the stimulus funding, capital improvement project funding, Compact Impact funding, other federal funding, federalization, visa waiver, the minimum wage, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., alternative energy, and the economy.

After the meeting with the governor, Babauta will have a private meeting with House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Senate President Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), according to Palacios.

"We welcome him and congratulate him on his new job and we will discuss with him issues about federalization, the 2010 report of the Interior about the status of nonresident workers, CIP funding, and other issues," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said he and other lawmakers are also expected to raise the issue of economic recovery, Interior policies, the absence of CNMI-only transitional worker program regulations by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and update on the Marine Monument.

Jeff Schorr, Office of Insular Affairs field representative, confirmed that Babauta will be accompanied by Steve Sander, OIA director of legislative affairs, and CNMI desk officer Frank Taitano.

Schorr also confirmed that Babauta will be meeting with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Babauta arrived in Guam last week and held a series of meetings with key officials.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan also earlier met with Babauta in Washington, D.C. and discussed issues confronting the CNMI, including the increasing difficulty that the CNMI Department of Public Health is having meeting patient needs and paying for health care costs.

Babauta, who last visited the CNMI in the summer of 2008, is originally from Guam. He is the first from the Pacific islands to hold the position.

"A native of Guam and a Capitol Hill veteran, Tony brings experience and familiarity with the people and the policies of the U.S. insular areas and the freely associated states. The department looks forward to the outstanding leadership that he will provide," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said after the U.S. Senate confirmed Babauta's nomination.

Babauta, who served as the staff director for the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, was nominated by Obama to the position on July 6.

He was supposed to visit Saipan and meet with the governor and members of the CNMI Legislature on Aug. 24 but the visit was postponed because his nomination was not confirmed before the U.S. Congress went into recess.

GOVT

From Page 1

the projected deficit for Fiscal Year 2009 which ends today.

The Fitial administration projects a deficit of between $9 million and $15 million for FY 2009.

The deficit is mainly because of medical referral and utilities costs, which Inos said are underfunded to begin with.

"We are trying to minimize expenses by holding off new acquisitions. Again, the budget won't be enacted in time just like the last time. We had our FY 2009 budget five or six months into the fiscal year. ...Right now, it's still manageable. At least we know we can operate within a $148 million budget," he said.

Continuing resolution

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the government has no choice but to operate on a continuing resolution in the absence of a timely budget for FY 2010, which begins tomorrow.

The House passed the proposed FY 2010 budget bill last week, but because the Senate session won't be holding a session until Oct. 8 on Rota, the bill is not expected to reach the governor's desk in time for the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

The government's $38.27 million spending in April to June marked a 17-percent drop from its spending of $46.44 million during the same quarter last year.

It also marked a 4-percent decrease from the January to March expenditure.

Based on Department of Finance data compiled by Commerce, the government's $32.34 million collection from taxes and fees in April to June was lower than the $39.495 million it collected during the same quarter last year.

This was also lower than the January to March collection of $34.85 million.

Over $11 million of the second quarter 2009 collection was from business gross receipt, while $4.893 million was from wage and salary tax. The rest were from corporate income/Chapter 7 tax, excise tax, hotel occupancy tax, fuel/container/bar tax, and other fees.

As of end-August, the government had already reached the maximum budget of $148 million for FY 2009.

Despite the projected deficit, the government had not resorted to mass layoff and payless paydays. Each government pay period costs $3.5 million to $4 million.

The report on government spending and collection also provided information about other economic indicators which have also gone down, including a $28.4-million drop in business gross revenue, from $423.96 million in April to June 2008 to only $395.72 million during the same quarter this year.

Tourist arrivals, bank deposits and loans, remittances, vehicle sales, hotel occupancy, imports, exports and value of construction also posted declines in the second quarter.

UFO

From Page 1

we would like to turn over the money collected as soon as possible," Yana said.

To give a donation, contact Yana at 234-6529 or 285-7893.

The cash donation would be deposited into an account with LandBank, which was provided with the help of the Office of the Consulate General on Saipan.

The money would be given to the Sagip Kapamilya Foundation of Philippine television station ABS-CBN.

UFO is coordinating the fund drive with the Philippines' Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Red Cross and the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

The homes of nearly 1.9 million people in Manila and surrounding areas were inundated by flooding unleashed when Typhoon Ketsana tore through the region over the weekend, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said Tuesday. Nearly 380,000 people have sought shelter in schools, churches and other evacuation centers.

The families of some Filipinos on Saipan were affected by the typhoon, which scythed through Metro Manila cities such as Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Taguig and Pateros.

Former Commonwealth Health Center employee Nelly Atalig said her brother Feliciano Bisnar's house was flooded and his taxi was washed out to the Pasig River.

Atalig's house, which she had been renting, was also badly damaged by the flood and carpet of mud.

Saipan World Resort employee Grace Nostales said her brother, Norman Capacio, and his wife and two kids were forced to climb to the roof of their house in Cainta, Pasig City, to escape the floodwaters. Nostales said that rescuers had difficulty reaching the Capacios' location.

The Capacio family endured two days on top of the roof without eating or drinking anything before the waters went down, enough for them to climb down. They are safe now but all their personal belongings were ruined.

Troops, police and volunteers have already rescued more than 12,359 people, but unconfirmed reports of more deaths abound, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said.

Overwhelmed Philippine officials have called for international aid, warning they may not have sufficient resources to withstand two new storms forecasters have spotted east of the island nation in the Pacific Ocean. One could hit the northern Philippines later this week and the other early next week, although meteorologists say that could change. ***(With AP)***

Storeowner foils 2 men's armed robbery try

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A storeowner foiled two men's attempt to rob his store by chasing them with a knife in Chalan Kanoa Monday afternoon.

Police arrested one suspect, identified as Tarakiel "Gino" Asanuma, 24, a Palauan.

The second suspect is still at large. He was described as about 5'4" tall, medium built, and wearing a camouflage long-sleeved shirt and pants. His face was covered with a red and white handkerchief and was wearing a black beanie cap.

The storeowner, a 39-year-old Chinese, sustained minor swelling on his left temple. Department of Public Safety medics treated him at the scene, but he refused to be taken to the hospital.

Asanuma was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning on charges of armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery.

During a Gerstein hearing, associate judge Perry B. Inos found probable cause to detain Asanuma and imposed a $10,000 cash bail for his temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 8 at 9am.

A Gerstein hearing is conducted when the arrest of a suspect is done without an arrest warrant. In this proceeding, the court will determine if there is probable cause to continue to detain the defendant.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that, on Monday at 1:13pm, police responded to a report of an attempted robbery at Lao Mart in Chalan Kanoa.

Quoting Detective Chris Leon Guerrero, Tarkong said the storeowner and his wife were inside the store when the two suspects entered.

The first suspect, later identified as Asanuma, was armed with a long pointed rusty metal object. He was wearing a yellow T-shirt, dark pants, and his face was covered with a red and white handkerchief.

Asanuma allegedly threatened to hit the male storeowner with the metal object and shouted, "Give me money" twice. Asanuma then punched the businessman and approached the latter's 38-year-old wife who was holding their seven-month-old baby.

Asanuma threatened to hit the woman with the metal object and pushed her aside to gain access to the store counter where he began looking for money. When the businessman tried to pull Asanuma out from behind the counter, Asanuma punched him on the left temple. Asanuma threatened to stab or hit him with the metal object.

The second suspect walked behind the counter and assisted Asanuma in searching for money.

The male storeowner ran to the next room, grabbed a knife and came out shouting.

Frightened, the suspects ran out of the front entrance of the store. The businessman chased them with a knife outside the store.

Responding police officers set up a perimeter search for the robbers in the neighborhood.

Police discovered the suspects' clothes, handkerchiefs, and black beanie, all stuffed in shelf located under a pavilion near a house.

Police realized that the suspects had changed their clothes. Police spotted one of the suspect, but he ran off and eluded arrest.

Police spotted Asanuma hiding in an outhouse outside a residence not far from the store.

The businessman positively identified Asanuma as the person who tried to rob the store and assaulted him.

Need for more money managers depends on results of Fund study

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees will soon decide whether to hire or retain more money managers once the results of an assets liability study are issued and endorsed for board approval.

During its recent board meeting, board members said the decision to retain the services of all its money managers or hire additional services will depend on the study's recommendation.

"Do we need those money managers now? Let's wait for the result of the assets liability study and see what it will tell the Retirement Fund," the agency's investment consultant reported.

The Fund has about eight money managers, all hired through open-ended contracts.

The performance of the Fund's money managers was raised to the board due to the current condition of the agency's investment funds and assets.

It had been recommended that the Fund hold and evaluate the performance of its money managers until the fourth quarter of 2009 to determine their effectiveness.

One money manager was also being considered for removal from the "watch list" as a result of its year-to-date performance, based on the consultant's recommendation.

A total of $43 million had been withdrawn from the Fund's investments during the current fiscal year, which ends today. The board of trustees had authorized the withdrawal of $45 million in the 12-month period.

As of Aug. 31, the cumulative drawdown was at $41.7 million, leaving a fund balance of $3.2 million for the fiscal year. Last Sept. 15, the Fund withdrew $1.3 million and the agency is not expecting to make another withdrawal until the end of the month because of the positive indication recorded in the agency's cash flow for the month.

Pension benefits to be provided to members and other Fund obligations will be sourced out from the collections and other revenues expected within the month.

As of July this year, the Fund reported that the market value of its investments was at $318.9 million. Its asset allocation showed $7.1 million in the money market; fixed income, $84.6 million; common stocks, $207.3 million; and hedge funds, $18.6 million.

Of the total portfolio, common stocks translate to 65 percent of the total asset allocation; fixed income, 27 percent; hedge funds, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

Burglar victimizes moviegoer

A man who had just watched a movie at Hollywood Theaters in San Jose on Saturday came out to find that his car had been burglarized.

The victim, a 41-year-old Caucasian, told police that he lost his Hewlett Packard laptop with extra batteries and accessories all worth $1,700, a black wallet with $400 cash, credit cards, and an identification card.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said that police responded to Hollywood Theaters on Saturday at 8:09pm after receiving a report about a burglary and theft incident.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that at 4:30pm the victim parked his car in the parking lot of Hollywood Theaters.

After the victim and his family finished watching a movie, they returned to their car and found that the vehicle's door was open. They then realized that some items were missing. There were no signs of forced entry.

Last Sept. 18, burglars broke into five vehicles that were parked at the New Century Plaza Apartment in Dandan. Some items were stolen from most of the cars.

Last July, burglars also broke into five vehicles that were parked at the Vestcor Village Apartment Complex on Capital Hill. The suspects stole a Pioneer CD player, several sunglasses, keys, and other miscellaneous items.

No one has been arrested yet in all these burglary cases. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CDA eyes economic potential of military buildup

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority anticipates a significant potential economic impact arising from the military buildup in Guam. However, with federalization issues at home, the CNMI is finding it hard to move on due to the lack of details in the federalization regulations.

"As of now, we continue to find ways to help our clients. We are looking at the labor impact of federalization but there are still no regulations and we don't know how our investors would be treated under the new undertaking with respect to employment," Sablan said.

He said there will surely be a spillover of the Guam military buildup to the CNMI and the islands will benefit a lot from this.

"We have to take advantage of its economic potential, both in the business and tourism sector because some can do business here and their dependants would be coming from Guam for [rest and recreation]," he said.

He said they are also looking at the positive impact to the agricultural sector and they are planning to provide loans to the fishing industry, the agriculture, and marine sectors.

He said they are also concerned about shipping rates and airline rates but these must be addressed separately.

He said it is not only Saipan but Rota and Tinian are also following these developments as they are eager to also take advantage of the economic impact.

CDA also expects a positive impact from the stimulus funds since that would be money circulating within the local economy.

On the issue of visa waivers for Russians and Chinese tourists, Sablan said there had been 20 percent drop in the market due to the absence of the visa waiver.

He said the federal government must provide this because of its big impact to the CNMI's tourism industry.

"That is a developing market, especially the Russians, who spend more than the average tourists," he said.

The CNMI, he said, needs this diversifying market to sustain its economic well-being.

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Proposed CNMI Strategy to Support the Military Buildup for Local Benefit Public Involvement Meeting

A Public Meeting will be held to discuss findings regarding how the CNMI can better utilize its resources to support the military during the build-up on Guam and ensuring long term benefits to the CNMI. The goal of the meeting is to gain public feedback to help shape a support strategy. This meeting will be held on **Saipan October 5th, at the Multi Purpose Center starting at 7:00PM.** Then, another meeting held on **Tinian October 6th, at the Tinian Public School, starting at 7:00PM.**

For those who cannot attend, we welcome your written comments sent to either:
igisomar@gmail.com
or
CNMI.Proposed.Strategies@gmail.com

Proposed CNMI Strategy to Support the Military Buildup for Local Benefit Public Involvement Meeting

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For those who cannot attend, we welcome your written comments sent to
either: igisomar@gmail.com
or
CNMI.Proposed.Strategies@gmail.com

Woman seriously injured in domestic attack

A woman was seriously injured after her boyfriend allegedly assaulted her with a blunt object and a glass bowl inside her apartment in Garapan early Sunday morning.

The victim, a 38-year-old Chinese, had several lacerations on the head that required several stitches. She was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room and later released.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the suspect, a 38-year-old Chamorro, was not arrested yet as the case is under further investigation.

Tarkong said that, on Sunday at 2:06am, police responded to a report of a disturbance at an apartment behind Dollar Days Store in Garapan.

When police officers arrived at the scene, they saw the victim's face covered with blood, with more streaming down from the top and side of the head. An ambulance brought the victim to CHC.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that while the victim was sleeping in her apartment room, her boyfriend had knocked on the front door. The victim opened the door and let him in.

The boyfriend, however, allegedly struck her head with a blunt object. He also allegedly hit her twice on the head with a glass bowl. The bowl shattered.

The victim shouted for help as she escaped through the front door. She alerted her neighbors by knocking on their doors and screaming for help.

One of the neighbors called police. The suspect fled the scene before police officers arrived.

The victim provided the police with the suspect's name, car, and its license plate. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Representatives of various agencies and stakeholders in the fight against domestic violence in the CNMI join Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos after the signing of a proclamation declaring October as CNMI Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Governor's Office yesterday.

OAG *vows to be more aggressive in campaign vs domestic violence*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the CNMI observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Office of the Attorney General vows to be more aggressive in dealing with domestic violence cases.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback, who was recently appointed as domestic violence prosecutor in the CNMI, said they have done good work so far but promises to be even more aggressive in prosecuting offenders.

"Right now we have a long list of crimes among members of families in the community. This is a bigger problem and we are attempting to provide the necessary steps to stop this," said Hasselback.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a proclamation at the Governor's Office yesterday morning, declaring October 2009 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was present but Inos explained that since it was his birthday last Saturday, Fitial told him to sign all proclamations this week as a gift.

Hasselback recognized the role of the Judiciary, the Department of Public Safety, and other enforcement agencies in holding offenders responsible for their acts, including going to jail.

"Would-be offenders should be aware that there is somebody out there. We can work together because this is a problem we can work quickly and seriously," he said.

An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner across the United States each year. About 85 percent of domestic violence victims are women. About 30 to 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month chair Gerladine Crisostomo said they will continue with their outreach program, particularly since the effects of domestic violence are not limited to the victim, but ripple out to the victim's family, friends and he community.

"We're ready to do our work," said Crisostomo.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo recalled that about 15 years ago, victims just went to the priest for help. "The priest says, let's pray. Now it is a community actively responding to this issue. This is human nature but we have to deal with this on a daily basis," he said.

One of the month's activities is the candlelight vigil to remember victims of domestic violence and the Men Against Violence Walk on Oct. 9 from the Minatchom Atdao to Hakubotan and back.

Govendo urged all the November general elections candidates to join this activity, including all the nine mayoralty aspirants, "to show that they really care about the community."

Other activities will be a day of prayer on Oct. 4 at the San Jose Church at 9m; a walk at 4pm-6pm on Oct. 14 at Oleai Beach Pavilion: and the Wise Women Village Project outreach on Oct. 17, 24 and 31 at the Tanapag Social Hall at 9am-1pm.

Dr. Rita Inos to be given posthumous award

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The late Dr. Rita Hocog Inos will be the recipient of a posthumous award during the celebration of Humanities Month this October.

The CNMI Humanities Council, which is organizing the event, has also lined up several activities for the community, including the first cha cha dance fundraiser called "Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha." The dance competition will be held this Oct. 2 and will feature live music from Parker, Maggie Naputi and Burning Bush at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

New council president Charles Reyes, who replaced former chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, said nominations are still being accepted for outstanding government service awardees and lifetime achievement awardees for 2009.

Dr. Inos, who impacted many colleagues, friends and other people in the community, passed away on Aug. 11 after a long bout with cancer.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the proclamation declaring October as Humanities Month before council members at the Governor's Office conference room yesterday morning.

Inos thanked them for their commitment in pushing forward the preservation of the local culture.

Dirk Spinneman of the Charles Sturt University in Albury, Australia, praised the CNMI Humanities Council for being the only group in the Pacific that seriously promotes local culture and history.

Spinneman is the author of Cage of Empire: The German Colonial Period in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all people, help us better understand our history, cultures, languages, political institutions and social values," states the proclamation.

It said the humanities also play a role in allowing people to examine their past and present experiences in light of values and beliefs that they have traditionally relied upon for guidance and direction.

"The humanities preserve a wealth of knowledge that assists us to bring meaning to our lives and to understand an increasingly complex world in which we live," the proclamation states.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos peruses the proclamation document as council board member Janet King reads the proclamation and incoming council president Charles P. Reyes Jr. listens.

Russian travel agents tour tropical CNMI

Russian travel agents visit an ancient Chamorro quarry site on Sept.23, 2009, on the island of Rota. The site, which also includes a statue of legendary ancient Chamorro chief Taga, is one of several historical sites visited by the tour group while in the islands.

MVA

Eighteen travel agents from Moscow and St. Petersburg departed the Northern Mariana Islands Sunday, Sept. 27, after spending more than a week on a familiarization tour to discover the attractions of this resort destination.

Since their arrival on Sept. 19, the travel agents were escorted by Marianas Visitors Authority on their tour of numerous hotels, restaurants, and optional tours, including a number of outdoor activities while enjoying the islands' tropical weather.

The group visited a number of beach resorts on the main islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, including Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, The Palms on Paupau Beach, Mariana Resort & Spa, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Rota Resort & Golf Links, Saipan World Resort, Aqua Resort Club, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Island tours of the islands highlighted pre-historic, colonial, and World War II historic relics, including the huge, limestone monoliths—also called latte stone—quarried by ancient indigenous Chamorros and used as the support pillars of various structures.

The award-winning beach and waters of Managaha Island were the venue for an afternoon of water sports. The tour group also snorkeled with sea turtles, took a sunset dinner cruise, indulged in Mandi Asia spa, explored jungle trails on all-terrain vehicles, spent a morning deep sea fishing, and took an underwater submarine tour in Saipan's lagoon.

"Having 18 Russian travel agents participate in a single FAM tour indicates the continued strong interest of Russians in visiting the Northern Mariana Islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Russia has developed into a very important part of our tourism strategy. Their income contribution to the NMI economy is significant and necessary." ***(MVA)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-COURTS-014

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 27, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA/IIMWAL AWEEWEE HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE SUPREME COURT, CLERK OF COURT, AT THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GUMA HUSTISIA/IIMWAL AWEEWEE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2009, LOCAL TIME, 10:00 A.M., AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF COURTS AT (670) 236-9700 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 OR E-MAIL to tracy.gurerreo@justice.gov.mp NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 19, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DOC-001

OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/S/ DOLORES M. SAN NICOLAS
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DOC-163

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 21, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"IT CONTRACTORS TO CREATE AN AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO GERI WILLIS, ARRA PROGRAM DIRECTOR, VIA E-MAIL TO geri@pticom.com OR FAX TO 1+(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 9, 2009.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-022

"SURVEY, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE PSS LOWER BASE FACILITY"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for **Survey, Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the PSS Lower Base Facility in Saipan.** The Scope of Work will be available beginning September 30, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI.

There will be a mandatory pre-proposal meeting onsite for interested Proposers on October 20, 2009 at 9:30 AM. Proposals will not be accepted from any Proposer who fails to attend this mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting.

Questions may be faxed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Programs Officer, at 664.3797 or e-mailed to thornburght@gmail.com. **no later than October 23, 2009.**

Proposals shall be in sealed envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-022 containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office **no later than October 30, 2009 at 10:00 AM.** Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

MVA RECOGNITION

President Hideki Sakai of Japan Saipan Travel Association, second from left, receives a certificate of appreciation on Monday, Sept. 28, from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, center, for his contributions to the Northern Mariana Islands' tourism industry. Also participating in the presentation at the MVA office were, from left, JSTA secretary Masanori Takahashi, Sakai, and MVA board members B.K. Park and Yoichi Matsumura.

MVA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Interior's Tony Babauta visits CNMI

Newly-confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta will be visiting the CNMI this week and will be meeting with members of the CNMI Legislature on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, from 10:30am to 11:15am in the House chamber. Babauta will be accompanied by Stephen Sander, director of Legislative Affairs; Jeff Schorr, Office of Insular Affairs field representative; Keith Aughenbaugh, federal CIP coordinator; and Francisco Taitano, CNMI desk officer. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, please call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Charter change group sets presentation

Citizens for Change of Article XII will be meeting with the Legislature on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at 10am in the House chamber. The group will delivering a presentation on the need to change Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. ***(PR)***

Demapan to deliver State of Judiciary

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan will be delivering the State of the Judiciary Address on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at 10am in the Supreme Court Courtroom. To RSVP, no later than Friday, Oct. 9, call 236-9800 or email supreme.court@saipan.com. ***(PR)***

Lao Lao Bay Golf no longer accepting applicants

Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort is no longer accepting applications for positions at the resort. The company hosted a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 15 and has already stopped accepting new applications effective Sept. 25. ***(PR)***

Saipan mayoral bets at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have it next general membership meeting on Oct. 7 at Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret. The group has invited all of the Saipan mayoral candidates to join Chamber members at this meeting and will provide them an opportunity to address members. The Chamber will be hosting senatorial and gubernatorial debates in October, but no mayoral debates. The Saipan mayoral candidates are Roman C. Benavente, Antonio M. Camacho, Juan S. Demapan, Donald Glenn Flores, Jose DLG. Sanchez, Candido B. Taman, Lino S. Tenorio, Marian DLG. Tudela, and Angelo O. Villagomez. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(SCC)***

Live fire training on FDM today

The U.S. Naval Forces Marianas-Guam will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla today, Sept. 30, 7am-9am. The area affected will encompass a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants from the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the Operations Section of the Emergency Management Office at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 and CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

Beautify CNMI meeting set

The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting will be this Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, at the Division of Environmental Quality at 3:30pm. For questions, contact Joe Kaipat at DEQ at 664 8500. ***(PR)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on Saipan on Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Hofschneider-Palacios on Chamorro radio talk show

Between 10am and 11am this Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, on Magic 100.3, the Chamorro radio talk show program called "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature the gubernatorial tandem of Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and Speaker Arnold Palacios. Discussions will be on the HA platform—social, economic, political and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today.

Between 9:15am and 9:45am, Saipan mayoral candidate Candido Taman will be a guest on the show. The phone line at the radio station will be open for questions during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule today

■ Sept. 30 *LIVE* 7pm-8 pm; replays 10/4 and 10/5 at 7-8 pm

Covenant Party Precinct III candidates vision and platform: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, Henry K. Rabauliman, and Edmund S. Villagomez.

■ Sept. 30 *LIVE* 8-9 pm; replays 10/5 and 10/6 at 8-9 pm

CNMI Descent for Self-Government & Indigenous Rights as "Friends of the Court" will discuss salient provisions of CNMI Covenant and relationship with the U.S. as related to the federalization Lawsuit. Guests include Oscar C. Rasa, former Speaker and Covenant negotiator; and John S. DelRosario Jr., former publisher and veteran freelance writer.

The shows air on KSPN Channel 2. *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com.

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

Silent protest vs Afghanistan War

A group of concerned citizens are holding a silent protest against the Afghanistan War at the American Memorial Park, by the circle flags, every Friday, from 5pm to 5:30pm. The group began their protest on Sept. 25, 2009.

In a statement, the group said that since 2001, the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has cost the lives of 834 American soldiers plus 569 coalition soldiers— 403 dead young soldiers. The total civilian dead is really unknown but reliable estimates say between 1,231 to 3,385 children, women, and men have died in this invasion. Financial costs from 2001 to September 2009 are $228.2 billion.

"In the first nine months of 2009, the war cost $61.3 billion with three more months to go this year, while millions of Americans have no health care insurance," the group said. "Support our soldiers, bring them home now. Stop the afghan war!"

The silent protest occurs every Friday, from Sept. 25, 2009, until Sept. 25, 2010. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 30, 1999

House opposes funding for airline study

The plan to establish a regional airline suffered a setback yesterday after members of the House of Representatives opposed a resolution proposed by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures requesting the Pacific Island Development Bank to allocate some $100,000 that will fund a study on the feasibility of a regional air carrier. House Speaker Diego T. Benavente questioned the resolution, saying it is not right for the CNMI government to seek funding since it has failed to meet its financial obligation of contributing $1 million to PIDB. So far, the Northern Marianas has only paid $650,000. Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio, a member of the Aviation Task Force, said the funding allocation is necessary if the Commonwealth is serious in its goal to establish a regional airline. Tenorio offered the APIL resolution that was discussed during a board meeting last week.

PSS to release retirement bonus

The Public School System will begin cutting checks for the retirement bonus of 37 PSS employees whose cash benefits have been withheld since December due to funding problem, education officials said yesterday. The Board of Education has approved Commissioner Rita Inos' move to reduce funding for different PSS programs in order to raise $525,000 in retirement obligation.

"If the administration and the legislature don't want to give us the money, then we have to produce it ourselves because we have a liability to our employees," board member Marja Lee Taitano said at yesterday's meeting of the BOE's fiscal committee.

Sept. 30, 2002

'No Tinian, Rota reorganization'

Saying he is finished with personnel termination or reorganization, Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright said he has no plans to undertake a similar move on NMC's satellite campuses on Tinian and Rota. "If you're asking me—do I plan a reorganization that's going to affect personnel there—absolutely not. I'm done with reorganizing as it impacts people as dramatically [as it has here]," he said in an interview Friday. "I'm not coming back to do that," he added. In his earlier discussion with NMC personnel and staff, Wright said: "This [reorganization] is the last time it will happen."

Judge OK's sale of BoS assets

The Bank of Saipan is up for liquidation after a Superior Court judge approved the request of former receiver Randall Fennell to sell bank assets and to pay lawyers' billings and other professional fees amounting to nearly a quarter of a million dollars for services rendered to the receivership. This came even as Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan also issued separate orders Friday that relieved Fennell of the receivership and appointed Antonio Muna to replace him; granted Fennell immunity from future lawsuits that may arise from his transactions as receiver, while declaring that the bank shall indemnify him for future claims. Manibusan also green-lighted the receiver's continued collection of debts due to the bank. The bank's loan portfolio totals about $35 million, but Richard W. Pierce, Fennell's counsel, had said some $8 million of these are considered bad debts.

Sept. 30, 2003

Atalig's seat declared vacant

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday declared a vacancy in the Senate seat formerly occupied by ex-senator Ricardo S. Atalig. He then called for a special election on Rota that will coincide with the mid-term elections on Nov. 1. Babauta's decision to hold the two elections simultaneously was due to cost factors. "I am setting the special election for the same day as the general election because this will save the Commonwealth significant costs," he said in a letter to Election Commission chairman Miguel Sablan.

Reluctant House passes FY04 budget

The Senate majority's unyielding position against a conference committee prompted the House yesterday to reinstate the Upper House's amendments to the $213.95 million FY04 budget bill-essentially slashing over $900,000-slash from Rota's allotment. Backed into a corner, 17 House members agreed to recall the action they made Friday, when they decided to send House Bill 13-335, HD3, SD3 to a conference committee in hopes of renegotiating the cuts made on Rota's budget. The amount cut from Rota was given to Tinian.

Island Snapshots

PERFORMANCE REPORT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Rep. Ralph Torres, and Senate President Pete Reyes listen to speakers during last Friday's "2009 Institutional Effectiveness Performance Report" of the Northern Marianas College.

CHA CHA FUNDRAISER HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The NMI Humanities Month celebration in October will kick off with the first cha cha dance fundraiser, called "Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha." The competition, organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, will be held this Oct. 2. From left, Janet H. King, program committee chair; board vhair Charles P. Reyes Jr., and Taro Leaf member Laila Y. Boyer show off the poster for the event. "Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature live music from Parker, Maggie Naputi and Burning Bush at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Happy 1st birthday to Matthew Brian Apasan! Matthew's party was held at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Greetings from Amily and friends.

SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and other lawmakers present a copy of House Resolution 16-98 to Luis A. Reyes and his family for their spirit of volunteerism since the early 1980s and their dedication to coaching and educating the youth in the ongoing Rotary Youth Basketball League, during a brief ceremony on Sept. 22 on Capital Hill.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Happy 40th wedding anniversary to our grandparents, Vic S. and Marcy P. Cepeda, who will be celebrating their 40th (Ruby) wedding anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009. Wishing you both much happiness and may the Lord continue to bless you with many years together. We love you very, very much. Greetings come from your granddaughters Elyssha, Edinna, Emelsha, Nino Frankie and Dad and Mom.

SEAWALL PROJECT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GPPC Inc. employees work on the $4.8 million-plus seawall replacement project at the Smiling Cove Marina. Once completed, the project will not only provide a stable seawall but also more parking spaces at the marina and a safe walkway because of the construction of stainless railings. The project, set to be completed in February 2010, is within the vicinity of the American Memorial Park, which is managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	9/19 Sat	9/17 Thu	9/17 Thu	9/15 Tue	9/12 Sat	9/25 Fri	9/21 Mon	9/20 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/21 Mon	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	9/29 Tue
MELL SENOKO	028E	9/26 Sat	9/24 Thu	9/24 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/19 Sat	10/2 Fri	9/28 Mon	9/27 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/28 Mon	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/3 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/1 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/26 Sat	10/9 Fri	10/5 Mon	10/4 Sun	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	10/5 Mon	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	10/13 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	020E	10/10 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/8 Thu	10/6 Tue	10/3 Sat	10/16 Fri	10/12 Mon	10/11 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/12 Mon	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue
MELL SENOKO	029E	10/17 Sat	10/15 Thu	10/15 Thu	10/13 Tue	10/10 Sat	10/23 Fri	10/19 Mon	10/18 Sun	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	10/19 Mon	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	10/27 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	028E	10/24 Sat	10/22 Thu	10/22 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/17 Sat	10/30 Fri	10/26 Mon	10/25 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/26 Mon	10/30 Fri	11/1 Sun	11/3 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	10/3 Sat	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue	10/7 Wed	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/16 Fri	10/17 Sat	10/22 Thu	11/10 Tue	10/25 Sun	10/21 Wed
MELL SENOKO	028E	10/10 Sat	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/14 Wed	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Fri	10/24 Sat	10/29 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/1 Sun	10/28 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/17 Sat	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue	10/21 Wed	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/30 Fri	10/31 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/8 Sun	11/4 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	020E	10/24 Sat	10/25 Sun	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/28 Wed	10/30 Fri	11/1 Sun	SKIP	11/6 Fri	11/7 Sat	11/12 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/15 Sun	11/11 Wed
MELL SENOKO	029E	10/31 Sat	11/1 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/5 Thu	11/4 Wed	11/6 Fri	11/8 Sun	SKIP	11/13 Fri	11/14 Sat	11/19 Thu	12/8 Tue	11/22 Sun	11/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	028E	11/7 Sat	11/8 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/5 Thu	11/11 Wed	11/13 Fri	11/15 Sun	SKIP	11/20 Fri	11/21 Sat	11/26 Thu	12/15 Tue	11/29 Sun	11/25 Wed

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Burma review

Having spent much of a year reviewing U.S. policy toward Burma, the Obama administration soon will unveil a reasonable new strategy, as far as it goes. It doesn't yet go far enough, however.

The review was sparked by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's apt observation that U.S. policy hasn't been very successful. Burma (also known as Myanmar), a Southeast Asian nation, remains under the thumb of one of the world's most odious regimes. Its population of 50 million, once relatively prosperous, languishes in dire poverty while its rulers plunder the country's natural resources and get rich. Peaceful efforts by students, Buddhist monks and others to win a measure of freedom are met with brutal repression; the regime holds more than 2,000 political prisoners. Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won overwhelmingly the last time Burma held genuine elections, in 1990, remains under house arrest.

U.S. policy has consisted of applying economic sanctions and half-heartedly trying to persuade other nations to do the same; shunning diplomatic contact with the government; vigorously supporting, in rhetoric, Burma's democrats; and, particularly since last year's devastating Cyclone Nargis, providing modest amounts of humanitarian aid. According to a senior administration official, the new policy will continue the sanctions. It will continue, and perhaps deepen, the humanitarian aid, making sure that none flows to the government or government-front organizations. And it will allow diplomatic engagement.

If engagement proceeds, U.S. officials will seek to put two topics on the agenda. One is democracy, including the need to release Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, allow her party to operate freely, hold elections in which the opposition participates and stop attacking ethnic minorities. The second is international security, and particularly U.S. concerns about Burma's burgeoning relationship with North Korea.

Those are the right topics, as long as U.S. officials discuss them with Burma's democrats as well as its dictators. We hope that discussions lead to tangible progress, in which case the United States might begin to consider easing sanctions. But what if they lead to no change in the regime's behavior or in its plan to stage phony elections in 2010 that only entrench military rule? U.S. officials acknowledge that the latter is likely, but so far there is no Plan B, no thought of sticks to hold alongside the carrots of eased sanctions. Stricter, more effective, more targeted sanctions; measures that take aim at the regime's rich earnings from natural gas sales; a U.N. investigation of the regime's crimes against humanity, which have been amply documented: These, too, should be on the table.

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BOMB PLOTS
R.McKEE
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"OBAMA MAY HAVE BANNED the PHRASE, 'WAR ON TERROR,' BUT AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION I HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE USING the PHRASE, 'DEATH TO IMPERIAL, SATANIC, AMERICAN SWINE.'"

Behind all that anger is a call for change

By FRANK LUNTZ
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Luntz advises Fortune 500 clients and has worked for politicians Rudolph Giuliani, Michael Bloomberg and Newt Gingrich; he also is the author of What Americans Really Want … Really: The Truth About Our Hopes, Dreams and Fears.

I listen to America—in focus groups, telephone interviews, town halls and polls in all 50 states—for a living. It used to be fun. Now it's become painful.

For 15 years, average Americans have exuded optimism and energy, whether they were talking about their political preferences, their employment aspirations or simply what they had for breakfast.

But that was before the economic meltdown one year ago. What a difference a year makes.

Today, Americans are boiling mad, and the elites from Washington to Wall Street to West Hollywood don't get it. It can best be summarized by 12 short words bellowed by Howard Beale, the deranged TV anchor in the movie "Network": "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore."

The frightening reality is that where there was hope, now there is cynicism. Where there were dreams, now there is disillusion. Instead of courage and resolve, I hear blame and finger-pointing.

According to my research, 72 percent of Americans agree with Howard Beale—they really are "mad as hell." Second, 57 percent now believe that their children will inherit a worse America than they did, and just 33 percent believe their children will have a better quality of life than they have.

This wasn't just any single poll. My research includes interviews with 6,400 people from December 2008 through April 2009 that allow me to analyze opinions by gender, age, ethnicity, partisanship and more. It is buttressed by two dozen "instant response" groups of 30 voters in almost a dozen states over the last 100 days. No matter how I slice and dice the results, we're a very unhappy people.

In my estimation, that intense despair and loss of confidence exactly reflect what we're seeing and hearing in health care town halls. The media focus on the shouting and the extremist slogans and miss the point: a once-optimistic people now filled with rancor and vitriol.

And why not? Americans in the unhappy majority are struggling to keep their jobs as million-dollar bonuses are being awarded at companies their tax dollars bailed out. They're watching Congress showcase the partisan spectacle we now blithely confuse with "government." They have learned (with good reason) to distrust their leaders, their institutions and even their own positive values in a culture that has turned coarse and critical.

The elites under attack complain that rowdy town halls are bad for civic discourse and democracy. But I contend that their empty dismissals of grass-roots anger are much more dangerous.

If you talk in depth to self-described angry Americans—as I have—you don't hear raving demands or reckless hate. What you hear is fear.

But you also hear a belief in American values that many thought were lost. An incredible 88 percent believe in the adage "live free or die." Conversely, just 35 percent agree with the statement "I want it all, and I want it now," and a slight majority (54 percent) believe "if it feels good, do it." It's nice to know that freedom beats obtaining more stuff. And when asked to choose from a list of social and cultural challenges facing America, the highest priority is "restoring personal responsibility." (Even in these toughest of economic times, most Americans are asking only for a hand up, not a handout.)

I even spot some green shoots of renewed optimism. First, the town halls themselves, despite their negative tone, are a sign of a healthy desire to engage in political and social discourse. Americans are putting some of the "self" back in self-governance. Competing ideals are actually competing.

Digging still deeper, my research suggests that we can dial back American anger if we begin to fix two complaints: the lack of accountability and the lack of respect in our dealings with each other.

The core American complaint about politics is that wrongdoing isn't punished, other than at the next election. From scandalous personal behavior to bailouts of everyone and everything except the hard-working middle class, Washington is seen as the source for America's mistakes. Enforcing rules and letting failures fail would stop the excesses today and prevent the mistakes of tomorrow.

Such accountability in business would likewise prevent executives at imploding companies from walking away with millions while their employees get skunked. I have done "employee satisfaction" research for two decades, and I have never seen a gulf this wide: Employers resent the lack of loyalty and commitment from their people; employees resent the lack of job security and the need to work longer and harder for less.

For business and political elites, the message should be clear: Restore trust. Politicians should be hosting more town hall meetings, even if it means encountering surly voters. Business leaders should be seeking input from their hard-pressed customers and workers, and they should stop paying themselves huge bonuses while everyone else suffers.If those in power shut up and listen, they'll hear what I'm hearing. It's time to heed the anger and reinforce the positive values behind it.

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How to stay positive all the time

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Someone asked me recently how I manage to keep such a positive attitude all the time—even through all the change, turmoil, chaos and upheaval. It's simply based on my underlying belief about the world:

"We live in a creative universe. The foundation for any creation is your belief system. The tools of creation are your thoughts and words."

Never say anything you don't want to be true

It's simple. If you believe that your thoughts create your reality, and that your words have creative power, then it only makes sense that you strive to think and speak only in ways that create the reality you desire.

In other words, never say anything that you don't want to be true. Don't say things like, *"I'm not good in math."* Say instead: *I'm working on improving my math skills.* Don't say *"I'm too fat."* Say instead *I'm working on losing weight.*

So, let's try one together. Repeat after me*: "Saipan is going through a transition right now."* There, now doesn't that feel a little more hopeful than what others are saying?

This mindset doesn't require that you avoid the reality of a situation. It simply suggests that you craft your statements about the world in ways that inspire hope and possibilities rather than negativity and doom. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain.

No matter how true you believe something to be, if it's negative, there's no need to actually say it out loud. No good can come of it. In fact, you can actually choose never to say anything unless it helps and supports another human being in thinking, believing and performing at their best. (Remember the old maxim: If you can't say anything good, don't say anything at all.) Remember, most people are not inspired to excel when they feel depressed and hopeless about their situation. People generally rise to the level of their potential based on a sense of hope.

"Okay, Walt, but people need to know the reality of the situation."

"No they don't. They can see it for themselves. What they need to know is that they have the power to create a new reality if they choose to."

There's no good argument that favors choosing doom and gloom over possibilities, unless your agenda is to depress people, or take away their power. The news media is trapped in a cycle of reporting negativity in order to survive. You, however, don't have to be.

Never say never

The next belief I have about life is that anything is possible. And, if you believe that anything is possible, then you must stay away from any pronouncements that limit those possibilities. I call them "limiting absolutes."

In everyday conversation, limiting absolutes generally start with the words "*Everyone...", "No one...", "We all know that...." "It's a fact that..."* and go on to describe a belief system that the speaker believes is indisputable fact.

"No one is going to invest in Saipan until..." "Everyone knows that Japan is our most important market..." "Saipan has no natural resources."

These are nothing more than beliefs; limiting beliefs that stifle growth.

The point here is not to debate whether these are provable, or to cite evidence to prove them. The point is to endeavor to say things that allow other possibilities to exist so we are not so cripplingly limited by the situation in the first place.

"Okay, Walt, but 90 percent of our tourists do come from Japan."

"Alright, so let's say it's true. Now what? What did we gain from saying that? What does that do to encourage people to explore other markets? How does that spur innovation and creative thought to get us out of that 'reality'? It doesn't add anything. We don't need to keep saying it. It's a dream killer."

Never give away your power

Another way to stay positive is to never give away your power. Don't give your power to "Nov. 28." Don't give your power to Article 12. Don't give your power to visas and green cards. Don't give away the power you possess to steer your life in a certain direction to an external force outside of you. The reason people find it so hard to be positive is that they've given away their power to belief systems that, in some cases, were specifically designed to take away their power. That keeps them dependent and controlled, and thus unhappy. Studies have shown that the degree of contentment in a person's life is directly related to how much control they feel they have. More sense of control equals greater happiness.

Always have a 'Plan B'

So how do you NOT give your power away and stay in control? A good strategy is to always have a "Plan B." Remember, any plan that relies solely on the actions of another individual, or an outside force in order to be successful is a flawed plan. What will you do, and more importantly, what are you putting in place now just in case your "Plan A" falls through? One surefire way to stay positive all the time is to never allow any one person or situation to hold the key to your success or happiness.

Question your current belief system...all of it!

Now, I'm about to suggest something radical here. I'm going to suggest that if you are not living the kind of life you want to live, or getting the results you want, it's because your belief system is flawed. Plain and simple.

We live in a supportive universe. The potential exists in every waking moment to create anything you desire. So, if things aren't going your way, it's probably nothing you're *doing* wrong per se; it's more likely something you *believe* that is not in alignment with truth. In other words, there is something you believe to be true about yourself, about other people, and/or about how the world works that is not true. Let me give you an example.

If you are not as slim and trim as you wish to be, for example, it's because something you believe about yourself (e.g., *I'm just naturally a big-boned person*) or something you believe about how the universe operates *(e.g., milk does a body good)* that is not in alignment with reality. It's practically impossible for you to stay healthy and stay out of the hospital eating the standard American diet of processed snacks, vitamin-stripped foods, pasteurized dairy products with growth hormones, meats with antibiotics, vegetables with pesticides, prematurely picked and force-ripened fruits, and so on. The truth is, the food you're eating is not fit for human consumption, and, in many cases is actually designed to get you addicted to it. Only when you adopt a belief system that is based on the truth about your body, and the effects of such a diet, will you be able to take control of your body, your health, and create the results you desire in that area of your life.

The reason you'll occasionally hear references to health in my columns is because the widely-held belief system around food, health, health care and medicine has fed people lies and fears about what is true, and has been specifically designed to take away their power and put it in the hands of pharmaceutical companies and food conglomerates, crippled the masses (literally and figuratively), increased their dependency and level of fear, and thus limited their growth and potential. Challenging and changing one's belief system in this one area could radically change a person's perception about themselves, about others, and about the world, and would help them take back their power, free up energy (both mental/emotional and physical) to devote to their creative pursuits, their relationships, family, and, lo and behold, have the remarkable side-effect of keeping them more positive.....all the time! *(People's concept of religion is another area that warrants discussion.... but I'm way smarter than that!)*

So, you must question *all* of your belief system. Everything is connected. What you believe about life, death, sickness, health, good, evil, men, women, black, white, love, family, and the reason for your existence are all things that affect what you do in life. Adjusting your beliefs in just one area could have a profound and life-changing effect in other areas. Changing your beliefs about health and food might free you from financial debt. Changing your beliefs about religion could help you in your business. Really!

Choose your lovers and leaders the same way

Finally, an important way to stay positive all the time is to watch who you spend time with. You might consider having the same criteria for your friends, lovers and even the people you follow down the political trail. How do you feel after being with them? Do they bring out the best in you? Do you feel drained and depressed, or do you feel energized and inspired? Do they whine and complain, or do they offer ideas and solutions? Be wary of people who argue on behalf of their own, or your limitations and encourage dependence rather and independence. Keep company with people who are going in their own positive direction, or who, at the very least are not discouraging you from going in yours.

So, in answer to that question posed to me last week, the secret to staying positive all the time is having and acting on the right set of beliefs, developing a sense of hope and accountability for your outcomes, hanging with and accepting leadership from the right set of people….and drinking soy milk!

Thanks to all those who attended Sunday's workshop and who are courageous enough to begin developing a new belief system about what's possible for them using their passion for writing! Visit www.saipanliving.com for photos and video from the event.

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or Amazon.com.

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Do good, not evil

The federalization takeover should be viewed as an intention of the U.S. government to do more good than evil to the CNMI. At least that should be the basis for the decision. In the early years of the United States, federal immigration policies welcomed the poor, destitute and the oppressed to come to the United States and were welcomed with open arms. These are the very people we call Americans today.

It will be a change of direction if the U.S. immigration will all of a sudden deport long-staying contract workers who helped build our community or children born here to contract workers or a poor individual who has nothing but the CNMI to lean on and friends in the CNMI to cling to.

The U.S. government is always boasting of being a government that is concerned with human rights. Let us all see if our guest workers who call the CNMI home will be deported by this new generation of Americans.

Thousands left the CNMI to look for greener pastures elsewhere. Who will be left if the very people who built the CNMI are also asked to leave? We need each other to grow and that includes the guest workers that we should all welcome. Remember, do unto others what you want done unto you.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

A great day

It's a great day for the ocean and the world: Palau has made itself the first nation on the planet to have a shark sanctuary comprised of its whole EEZ. It stops shark finning—one of the worst practices of commercial fishing ever seen. Did you know that 93 percent of the value of fish that are caught by foreign fishing fleets leave the host country? That means 93 percent of the value of the fish caught in any Micronesian nation that allows the Taiwanese/Chinese and/or other fleets to fish does not stay in that nation! Those fleets are virtually raping the ocean and raping the nations that allow them to fish. I am proud of everyone around the world that helped the President of Palau to make this historic decision—it actually does stops a horrid practice that is happening daily. It certainly has a quantifiable result addressing a real world problem that needed immediate action. Let's strongly encourage all nations to follow Palau's lead.

William McCue
Wellington, FL

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 25 to 30 mph.	Partly sunny and windy with isolated showers. East winds 25 to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

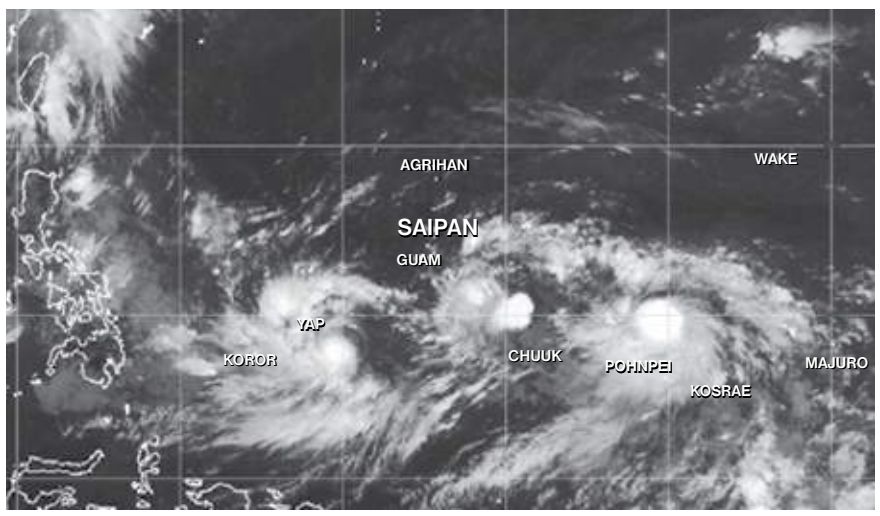
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲88	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲77	▼60
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼78
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲73	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼74
New York	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼50
Osaka	Rain	▲76	▼68
Paris	Sunny	▲69	▼52
Pusan	Showers	▲76	▼72
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲63	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲68	▼64
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Parma (19W) is centered southeast of Yap near 8N139E moving west-southwest at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within 75 miles of the center. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WTPQ33 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. Tropical depression 18W is centered north of Chuuk near 11N152E moving northwest at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found mainly west of the center between 8N and 12N from 147E to 150E. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WTPQ32 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A tropical disturbance that is currently the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert is centered northeast of Pohnpei near 9N161E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found between 6N and 11N from 157E to 162E. A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 16N130E through Tropical Storm Parma (19W) then, northeastward through Tropical Depression 18w then, then finally continues southeastward through a prominent circulation centered northeast of Pohnpei at 9N161E to end at EQ170E. Convergent west winds south of the monsoon trough axis are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 4N135E to 4N146E. Winds converging near the southeastern end of the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Kosrae and Tarawa south of a line from EQ164E to 5N167E to EQ173E. Trade-wind convergence north of the monsoon trough axis is generating scattered showers north of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 10N136E to 12N138E to 11N142E and east of the Marianas and over Enewetak within 100 miles of a line from 14N149E to 11N165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
11:07 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:54 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:52 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:26 PM	2:32 AM
Thursday	4:02 PM	3:20 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	5:14 PM	4:56 AM
Sunday	5:52 PM	5:46 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Starbucks rolls out Via instant coffee nationwide

CHICAGO (AP)—The company that added "venti" and "frappuccino" to American vocabularies is making a push throughout North America to convince connoisseurs to sample what many see as a down-market drink—instant coffee.

Nearly eight months after Starbucks Corp. began selling its Via instant coffee in Seattle and Chicago, the company on Tuesday will begin offering the dissolvable drink to the rest of the country and in its Canadian stores.

Backed by the company's first-ever television ads, along with large-scale distribution to about 1,500 sites outside its stores, the Via launch shows just how determined Starbucks is to own a stake in the $21 billion worldwide instant coffee market.

"Based on the success we've had, we feel strongly that we're sitting on a very big opportunity," said Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said during a conference call with journalists. "What's going to sell Via at the end of the day is that (it) delivers in the cup. Most people will not be able to tell the difference."

AP

Shown here is a demo of Starbucks Corp. "Via," a new instant coffee in San Francisco, Monday, Sept., 28, 2009. Via will be available in the United States and Canada Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009.

While instant coffee is pervasive throughout Europe—accounting for as much as 80 percent of coffee sales in the U.K.—the insta-brews haven't won over American taste buds, in large part because of their image as an inferior knock-off of drip-brewed beverages.

But it's that perception that Starbucks executives are trying to change. They hope the skinny cylindrical 3-packs ($2.95) and 12-packs ($9.95) of coffee that dissolve in water will eventually be as prevalent on store shelves as its packaged coffee is now. The coffee is available in Colombia and Italian Roast flavors, and more varieties are expected to be introduced in the future.

While experts see opportunity for Starbucks, they also see challenges.

Bob Goldin, an analyst at the Chicago-based food consultant Technomic Inc., said Starbucks faces twin hurdles of perception and price. The Starbucks instant comes in just shy of a dollar a cup, compared with the pennies it costs for a cup of home-brewed joe.

Religious life won't be the same after downturn

NEW YORK (AP)—Organized religion was already in trouble before the fall of 2008. Denominations were stagnating or shrinking, and congregations across faith groups were fretting about their finances.

The Great Recession made things worse.

It's further drained the financial resources of many congregations, seminaries and religious day schools. Some congregations have disappeared and schools have been closed. In areas hit hardest by the recession, worshippers have moved away to find jobs, leaving those who remain to minister to communities struggling with rising home foreclosures, unemployment and uncertainty.

Religion has a long history of drawing hope out of suffering, but there's little good news emerging from the recession. Long after the economy improves, the changes made today will have a profound effect on how people practice their faith, where they turn for help in times of stress and how they pass their beliefs to their children.

"In 2010, I think we're going to see 10 or 15 percent of congregations saying they're in serious financial trouble," says David Roozen, a lead researcher for the Faith Communities Today multi-faith survey, which measures congregational health annually. "With around 320,000 or 350,000 congregations, that's a hell of a lot of them."

FDIC expected to ask banks to prepay $36B in fees

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. may take the unprecedented step of ordering banks to prepay about $36 billion in premiums to replenish the deposit insurance fund that has been severely depleted by a rash of bank failures.

The FDIC board likely will call for "prepaid" bank insurance premiums at its public meeting Tuesday to discuss the issue, three industry executives and a government official said. The banking industry prefers that option over a special emergency fee—which would be the second this year. The executives and the official spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has yet to be made public.

It would be the first time the FDIC has required prepaid insurance fees. Under the plan, banks would have to pay in advance their insurance premiums for 2010-2012, bringing in about $12 billion for each of the three years, two of the executives said. That is the normal amount of insurance fees, though it could vary somewhat according to growth in total insured deposits—the basis for determining the fees.

Off the table, at least for now, are the options of tapping the agency's $500 billion credit line with the Treasury Department and the agency borrowing billions of dollars from healthy banks by issuing its own debt, the industry executives and the government official said.

A spokesman for the FDIC declined to comment Monday afternoon.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair said earlier this month that she was "considering all options, including borrowing from Treasury," to replenish the insurance fund. Yet she is generally perceived as considering that the most unpalatable approach.

Borrowing from the Treasury could create the undesirable impression of another taxpayer-financed bailout, while borrowing from the banks might make the FDIC look as if it were beholden to the banking industry, experts say.

Ex-Enron broadband exec gets 16 months in prison

HOUSTON (AP)—The former chief executive of Enron Corp.'s failed Internet business was sentenced Monday to 16 months in prison for lying about the capabilities of the once mighty energy giant's broadband network in order to help pump up the company's stock price.

The former broadband unit CEO also agreed to pay $8.7 million in restitution.

Joseph Hirko apologized for his actions before being sentenced. He had previously pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud as part of a plea deal with federal prosecutors.

"I've always tried to be an example for my kids, to show them by my actions to do right. I can't do that anymore. The best I can do is stand here before you and accept responsibility for my actions," Hirko said before he was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore as his three adult children and his wife sat in the coutrroom.

Hirko's attorney, Per Ramfjord, had asked for a sentence of a year and a day, telling Gilmore his client was not as culpable as other Enron broadband executives who were charged in the case and that there was no way to calculate the loss caused to investors by what happened in the broadband unit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil rises to near $67 in Asia as stocks rebound

BANGKOK (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $67 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as regional stock markets rebounded and investors awaited a slew of data on the U.S. economy. Benchmark crude for November deliver was up 2 cents at $66.86 by late morning Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 82 cents Monday to settle at $66.84. Regional stock markets, often a barometer of optimism about economic prospects, rebounded from a sharp fall Monday after corporate takeovers boosted Wall Street to a higher close. Also pushing up oil prices was the West's recent stern warning to Iran over a previously unknown nuclear facility. About 20 percent of the world's crude moves through the Straits of Hormuz on Iran's southern coast and any showdown between the West and Iran could threaten that route.

Xerox in $6B deal to expand tech services business

NEW YORK (AP)—Xerox Corp. said Monday it will buy Affiliated Computer Services Inc. for about $6.4 billion in cash and stock, joining the expensive race among technology companies to broaden their offerings. Xerox said the deal will create a $22 billion business that combines Xerox's copiers, printers and document management services with the "business process outsourcing" of Dallas-based ACS. Outsourcers like ACS take on tasks for other companies, such as helping to manage payroll or run health care plans. Xerox's offer amounted to a 33 percent premium over ACS's closing stock price on Friday, although the value fell as Xerox shares lost $1.29, or 14.4 percent, to close at $7.68 Monday. ACS shares jumped $6.61, or 14 percent, to $53.84, hitting a 52-week high of $55.84 earlier in the session.

Bank suspends dealings with ACORN housing entity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bank of America Corp. is suspending its work with the housing affiliate of embattled community organizing group ACORN. The decision comes as three Republicans in Congress ask Bank of America and 13 other financial institutions to give Congress a complete accounting of their dealings with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now or its affiliates. In a statement, Bank of America said it would not enter into any further agreements with ACORN Housing Corp. until the bank is satisfied all issues have been resolved. ACORN Housing Corp. and Bank of America have worked together for years on mortgage foreclosure issues. "We completely understand why our lending partners like Bank of America want assurances that the recent allegations against us won't happen again," ACORN Housing Corp. said Monday. "We are taking a number of steps to ensure this, including providing ethics training to all of our staff."

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,747.20 Up 70.30 (1.50%)
HONG KONG	21,052.65 Up 464.24 (2.25%)
JAKARTA	2,437.75 Up 39.92 (1.66%)
TOKYO	10,100.20 Up 90.68 (0.91%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Up 4.34 (0.37%)
MANILA	2,807.32 Up 22.67 (0.18%)
SINGAPORE	2,670.89 Up 41.64 (1.58%)
SEOUL	1,690.05 Up 14.50 (0.87%)
BANGKOK	717.79 Up 8.91 (1.26%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,789.36 124.17
NASDAQ	2,130.74 0.00
S&P	1,062.98 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1427
British Pound	0.6301
Canadian Dollar	1.0844
Chinese Renminbi	6.8280
Euro	0.6843
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503
Indian Rupee	48.0620
Indonesian Rupiah	9,715.0000
Japanese Yen	89.7750
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4875
New Zealand Dollar	1.3866
Philippine Peso	47.5450
Singapore Dollar	1.4177
South Korean Won	1,186.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0331
Taiwan Dollar	32.3720
Thailand Baht	33.5850

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Man faces manslaughter trial in texting case

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California man accused of killing a pedestrian while driving and text messaging has been ordered to stand trial for gross vehicular manslaughter. Superior Court Commissioner James Odriozola denied a defense motion Monday to lessen the charge to a misdemeanor after determining there was evidence the crash was caused by more than ordinary carelessness. Authorities say Martin Kuehl struck and killed nanny Martha Ovalle as she walked in an Orange County crosswalk on Aug. 29, 2008. Odriozola noted that Kuehl did not send or receive texts at the exact time of the crash but did have his cell phone in his hand and had been texting back and forth with a friend prior to the crash. Kuehl could face up to nine years in prison if convicted.

Body of NY congresswoman's husband is recovered

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities have recovered the body of U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney's husband, who died on a mountain-climbing expedition in the Himalayas. Global Rescue, a company that provides search and rescue services, said in a statement Monday that 71-year-old Clifton Maloney's body has been recovered from the slopes of Cho Oyu (CHOH' oh-YOO'), the world's sixth-highest mountain. It straddles the border of Nepal and Tibet. The company said the remains were en route to Katmandu where the body will be prepared for transport to the U.S. The millionaire investment banker and avid climber was resting in a high-altitude camp after a successful ascent to the summit Thursday when he died unexpectedly. Carolyn Maloney represents New York's 14th Congressional District, which includes parts of New York City.

Dad guilty of fatal child abuse in Colo. case

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado father has been found guilty of fatal child abuse and several other charges in the disappearance and presumed death of his young daughter. The abuse charge was the most serious of 57 that Aaron Thompson, of Aurora, faced in the 2005 disappearance of his daughter Aarone (AIR'-uh-nay). Jurors convicted Thompson on Monday of 31 of the charges after a six-week trial. Thompson also was convicted of conspiracy to knowingly commit fatal child abuse. He faces up to 80 years in prison for the two abuse convictions alone. He was acquitted of some charges, including second-degree assault and second-degree assault involving a deadly weapon. Thompson reported his daughter missing in November 2005. He said she ran away after an argument. But authorities believe she may have died about two years earlier. Her body has not been found.

Jet that crashed in 1955 found in Pacific near LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An amateur historian says the wreckage of an Air Force jet believed lost at sea 54 years ago with two crewmen aboard has been found off the coast of Southern California. G. Pat Macha, who heads a group of volunteer searchers, said Monday that the plane was found earlier this month during a sonar survey for another aircraft near Los Angeles. Macha says divers matched a serial number on the wreckage to a Lockheed-Martin T-33A jet trainer. He believes the wreckage was a missing Air Force jet that departed Los Angeles International Airport on Oct. 15, 1955. Macha turned over the information to the Los Angeles County sheriff's office and the U.S. Military's Joint Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Command, which would be responsible for identifying the crew members.

AP source: NYC terror probe focuses on accomplices

NEW YORK (AP)—After interrupting what they believed was a terrorist plot on New York City with a series of raids and arrests, authorities have intensified their focus on possible accomplices of the suspected al-Qaida associate at the heart of the case, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation continues, confirmed that investigators know the identities of at least three people believed to be in on a bombing plot they say might have targeted mass transit in the New York area.

Authorities released a flurry of terrorism warnings for sports complexes, hotels and transit systems even while saying the plot was disrupted before it become an immediate threat. But many questions remain unanswered, including the whereabouts of co-conspirators and whether any may be cooperating with the probe.

There also have been no reports that any of the bomb-making materials have been recovered.

The accomplices are suspected of traveling from New York City to suburban Denver this summer and using stolen credit cards to help Najibullah Zazi stockpile beauty products containing hydrogen peroxide and acetone, which can be key ingredients for homemade bombs, authorities have said.

AP

This image made Friday, Sept. 25, 2009 from security video made available by CNN shows a man believed to be Najibullah Zazi shopping at Beauty Supply Warehouse in suburban Denver.

Before the raids, police detectives showed a source—a Queens imam at a mosque where Zazi had once worshipped—photographs of him and three people considered possible suspects, court papers say. It was unclear whether those three were the same ones suspected of traveling to Denver.

The official who spoke to The Associated Press declined to comment further Monday. Spokesmen James Margolin for the FBI, Edward Mullen for the New York Police Department and Robert Nardoza for the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn declined to discuss the case.

After initially being charged along with his father and the imam with lying to investigators, Zazi was due in federal court in Brooklyn on Tuesday for an arraignment on charges he conspired to use weapons of mass destruction. The 24-year-old airport van driver has denied any wrongdoing.

Pregnant? Get a flu shot—but it may be a hassle

AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003 file photo, Brenda Gonzales, who is 7 months pregnant, receives a flu shot at the Maple Clinic in Dallas.

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's hard for pregnant women to escape the message: You're at extra risk from swine flu—it could trigger premature labor, hospitalize you for weeks, even kill you—so be among the first in line for vaccine next month. But only about one in seven pregnant women gets a flu shot each winter.

While federal health officials are working hard to raise that number this year, repeated swine flu warnings won't automatically overcome a key obstacle: Many obstetricians don't vaccinate. And not only are many women reluctant to go hunting for flu shots elsewhere, historically some pharmacists and other providers have been wary of vaccinating them.

"Maybe this year we can change that culture," says Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's not supposed to happen that you, when you are pregnant, are fighting for your life on a respirator."

Yet getting simple vaccine information took Charla Bason of Washington, D.C., repeated requests, as she was bounced between her obstetrician's office and her primary care doctor a few weeks ago.

"I feel like if I hadn't brought it up, they never would have mentioned it to me," says Bason, 30, who is seven months pregnant with her first child.

Bason decided to seek vaccination after watching a CDC Webcast about pregnant women and talking with a physician in the family. But she still has no clear answer about where to get one.

"It's been incredibly frustrating. There's a terrible disconnect between the message that was getting out and, once you decide you want it, how do you get it?" she says.

Okla. teen claims he was held in closet for years

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A woman was arrested after her 14-year-son told authorities he escaped from a home where he'd been kept for 4 1/2 years, spending most of his time locked in a bedroom closet, police said Monday.

A security guard at a National Guard facility in Oklahoma City called police on Friday after the teen showed up malnourished and with numerous scars and other signs of abuse, police Sgt. Gary Knight said.

"He was hungry. He was dirty. He had numerous scars on his body," Knight said. "It was very sad."

The boy was taken to a hospital to be examined and then turned over to the custody of the Department of Human Services, Knight said.

After police interviews, officers on Saturday arrested the boy's mother, 37-year-old LaRhonda Marie McCall, and a friend, 38-year-old Steve Vern Hamilton, on 20 complaints each of child abuse and child neglect. Formal charges have not been filed, and both were being held on $400,000 bond, according to jail records.

Jail officials were not sure wheter either had retained an attorney, and no one answered the phone at McCall's home. A police report listed McCall as a pharmaceutical company employee and Hamilton as a cab driver.

The teen, wearing only a pair of oversized shorts held up by a belt, walked up to a security guard at the Guard facility around 5 p.m. Friday and asked where a police station was located so he could report being abused, according to a police report.

Video shows teens beating Chicago student to death

CHICAGO (AP)—Cell phone footage showing a group of teens viciously kicking and striking a 16-year-old honors student with splintered railroad ties has ramped up pressure on Chicago officials to address chronic violence that has led to dozens of deaths of city teens each year.

The graphic video of the afternoon melee emerged on local news stations over the weekend, showed the fatal beating of Derrion Albert, a sophomore honor roll student at Christian Fenger Academy High School. His death was the latest addition to a toll that keeps getting higher: More than 30 students were killed last school year, and the city could exceed that number this year.

Prosecutors charged three teenagers on Monday with fatally beating Albert, who was walking to a bus stop when he got caught up in the mob street fighting, authorities said.

The violence stemmed from a shooting early Thursday morning involving two groups of students from different neighborhoods, said Tandra Simonton, a spokeswoman for the Cook County prosecutor's office. When school ended, members of the two groups began fighting near the Agape Community Center.

The attack, captured in part on a bystander's cell phone video, shows Albert being struck on the head by one of several young men wielding wooden planks. After he falls to the ground an appears to try to get up, he is struck again and then kicked.

Asia

UN warns leaders time running out for climate deal

BANGKOK (AP)—The United Nations on Monday warned world leaders they have only 70 days to reach a new deal to limit global warming, while environmentalists pointed to the deadly floods in the Philippines to illustrate the already devastating impact of climate change.

Only hours after negotiations began, rich and poor nations were already flinging their usual rebukes at one another for failing to do their part to reach a deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

Talks have been deadlocked for months over the industrial countries' refusal to commit to committing to sufficiently deep cuts or provide billions of dollars to poor nations to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change and transition to a low-carbon economy.

The major developing countries like India and China, in turn, have refused to agree to binding targets altogether and are leery of demands that any of their commitments be monitored and verified as part of any agreement.

"Time is not just pressing. It has almost run out," U.N. climate chief Yvo de Boer said, with a clock nearby showing there were 70 days until world leaders are scheduled to meet in Copenhagen to finalize a pact.

"As many leaders have said, there is no plan B," he continued. "If we don't realize Plan A, the future will hold us to account for it."

Some environmentalists tried to raise the sense of urgency by pointing to the weekend tropical storm that set off the region's worst flooding in more than 40 years in the Philippines and left 140 dead. It offered, they said, a glimpse into the kind of turbulent weather that could be unleashed by warming temperatures.

"We are asking the negotiators to look outside these walls. They should realize that it is the people's lives at stake," said Dinah Fuentesfina, a Philippine activist from the Global Campaign for Climate Action Asia.

The need for a deal was also driven home by a U.N. report last week that showed climate-related events such as the melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets and the increasing acidification of the oceans were happening much faster than scientists had predicted even two years ago.

Philippine death toll rises, as new storms brew

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers pulled more bodies from swollen rivers and debris-strewn streets Tuesday to bring the death toll from massive flooding in the northern Philippines to 240, while two new storms brewing in the Pacific threatened to complicate relief efforts.

The homes of nearly 1.9 million people in the capital and surrounding areas were inundated by flooding unleashed when Tropical Storm Ketsana tore through the region over the weekend, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said Tuesday. Nearly 380,000 people have sought shelter in schools, churches and other evacuation centers.

Overwhelmed officials have called for international aid, warning they may not have sufficient resources to withstand two new storms forecasters have spotted east of the island nation in the Pacific Ocean. One could hit the northern Philippines later this week and the other early next week, although meteorologists say that could change.

Ketsana, which scythed across the northern Philippines on Saturday, dumped more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, fueling the worst flooding to hit the country in more than 40 years.

AP

A boy stands beside a sign on a vehicle which was written in mud as residents slowly return to their homes in suburban Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines on Monday Sept. 28, 2009.

Troops, police and volunteers have already rescued more than 12,359 people, but unconfirmed reports of more deaths abound, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said.

He told a news conference that help from foreign governments will ensure that the Philippine government can continue its relief work.

"We are trying our level best to provide basic necessities, but the potential for a more serious situation is there," Teodoro said. "We cannot wait for that to happen."

Authorities announced Tuesday that a dam in northern Bulacan province had to release water for the second time in days in order to prevent a spill and urged villagers downstream to expect rising water levels.

Even the country's communist guerrillas said they would hold off on assaults and help villagers recover from the storm.

The extent of devastation became clearer Monday as TV networks broadcast images of mud-covered communities, cars upended on city streets and reported huge numbers of villagers without drinking water, food and power.

In Manila's suburban Marikina city, a sofa hung from electric wires.

Since the storm struck, the government has declared a "state of calamity" in metropolitan Manila and 25 storm-hit provinces, allowing officials to use emergency funds for relief and rescue.

Resident Jeff Aquino said floodwaters rose to his home's third floor at the height of the storm.

Aquino, his wife, three young children and two nephews spent that night on their roof without food and water, mixing infant formula for his 2-year-old twins with the falling rain.

2 US soldiers killed in Philippines blast

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two U.S. troops were killed in a land mine attack Tuesday by suspected al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines, officials said.

It was believed to be just the second time U.S. soldiers have been killed in the southern Philippines in violence blamed on the Abu Sayyaf group since American counterterrorism troops were deployed to the region in 2002, and the first fatalities in years.

One Philippine marine also was killed and two others were wounded in the blast on Jolo island, where the Americans have been providing combat training and weapons to Filipino troops battling Abu Sayyaf militants.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said a Philippine military convoy joined by U.S. troops was on its way to an area in Jolo's Indanan township where troops were building two school buildings and digging artesian wells when the land mine exploded.

One U.S. soldier died at the scene, while another who was critically wounded in the blast died a short time later, Brawner told The Associated Press.

"They were not in combat," Brawner told reporters earlier. "These U.S. soldiers were there in the area to supervise the developmental projects in Indanan."

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy said the deaths happened when the soldiers' vehicle struck an improvised explosive device at about 8:45 a.m. (0045 GMT) during a resupply mission for the school construction project.

The troops were not identified pending notification of next of kin.

Brawner said no suspects were immediately identified, but suspicion immediately fell on the well-armed Abu Sayyaf, which is blamed for numerous bombings, beheadings and kidnappings of Filipinos and foreigners in the south in recent years.

A senior Philippine military commander overseeing counterterrorism campaigns in the south told The Associated Press that Abu Sayyaf had likely planted the landmine in Indanan, where the militants have jungle strongholds. The commander spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give information to reporters.

Abu Sayyaf is believed to have about 400 fighters, to have received funds from al-Qaida and is suspected of sheltering militants from the larger Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

An estimated 600 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the Philippines, mostly in the southern front lines of the Philippine military's operations against the Abu Sayyaf group and Jemaah Islamiyah.

Civilians flee main Taliban stronghold in NW Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani soldiers traded rocket and mortar fire with militants on Monday as hundreds of civilians fled the Taliban and al-Qaida's main stronghold in the northwest. A suicide car bomber killed five people including a prominent tribal elder.

Pakistan's civilian government has vowed to root out militants in the northwest, many of whom allegedly use the mountainous tribal areas along the border as a base for attacks on American and NATO troops in Afghanistan. Pakistan jets have bombed targets in Waziristan in recent months, but the military has said it would launch full-scale ground operations at the "appropriate" time.

Residents said the military and the Taliban had urged them to flee South Waziristan in recent days.

Sumsam Bukhari, the junior information minister, told reporters the launch of a major military operation in Waziristan was not discussed at a Cabinet meeting Monday. "This is all speculative, and there is no such thing planned yet," he said.

In recent days, there's been an increase in the number of people leaving the Makeen and Ladha areas of South Waziristan, according to residents, though many have been fleeing to the relative safety of nearby towns for months.

"There is bombing everywhere," said Iqbal Mehsud, a resident of Ladha who was in a pickup truck loaded with luggage, two goats, a cow and a dog. "There is a shortage of rations. Most of our people have left. It is now like a ghost area."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan teen chops off father's hands, cites abuse

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Police say a 17-year-old Taiwanese boy has been arrested for chopping off his father's hands, allegedly to avenge years of physical abuse. Police say the boy cut through his father's wrists with a knife while he was asleep at the family home in central Miaoli on Monday. The 37-year-old father, a divorced ironsmith, is in stable condition after doctors reattached his severed hands. Police say the boy admitted to cutting his father's hands off and showed no remorse. They say the boy complained that his father had beat him after he refused to get a job while attending school.

Beer-drinking Muslim woman's caning to go ahead

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A judge in Malaysia has upheld a court verdict to cane a Muslim woman for drinking beer, news reports said Monday, re-igniting a controversy over Islamic justice in this moderate Muslim-majority country. The Star newspaper's Web site and national news agency Bernama said the chief Shariah judge of Pahang state ruled that a Shariah High Court's verdict against Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, 32, was correct and should stay. If the punishment is carried out, Kartika would become the first Muslim woman to be caned in Malaysia, where about 60 percent of the 28 million people are Muslims. No date was immediately set for the caning.

Indian experts exhume Kashmir rape victims' bodies

SHOPIAN, India (AP)—Indian forensic experts exhumed the bodies of two slain Kashmiri women Monday in an investigation aimed at defusing the latest tensions plaguing this bloody Himalayan region. Many in Muslim-majority Kashmir accuse Indian security forces of raping and murdering the women and say justice will only be served when the troops leave. The attacks on 22-year-old Neelofar Jan and her 17-year-old sister-in-law Asiya Jan dramatically rekindled anti-India sentiments in the territory, where militant groups have been fighting for independence since 1989 but where violence has been waning over the past few years. The two disappeared in May as they walked home from their family's apple orchard.

World

Iran says advanced missiles can target any threat

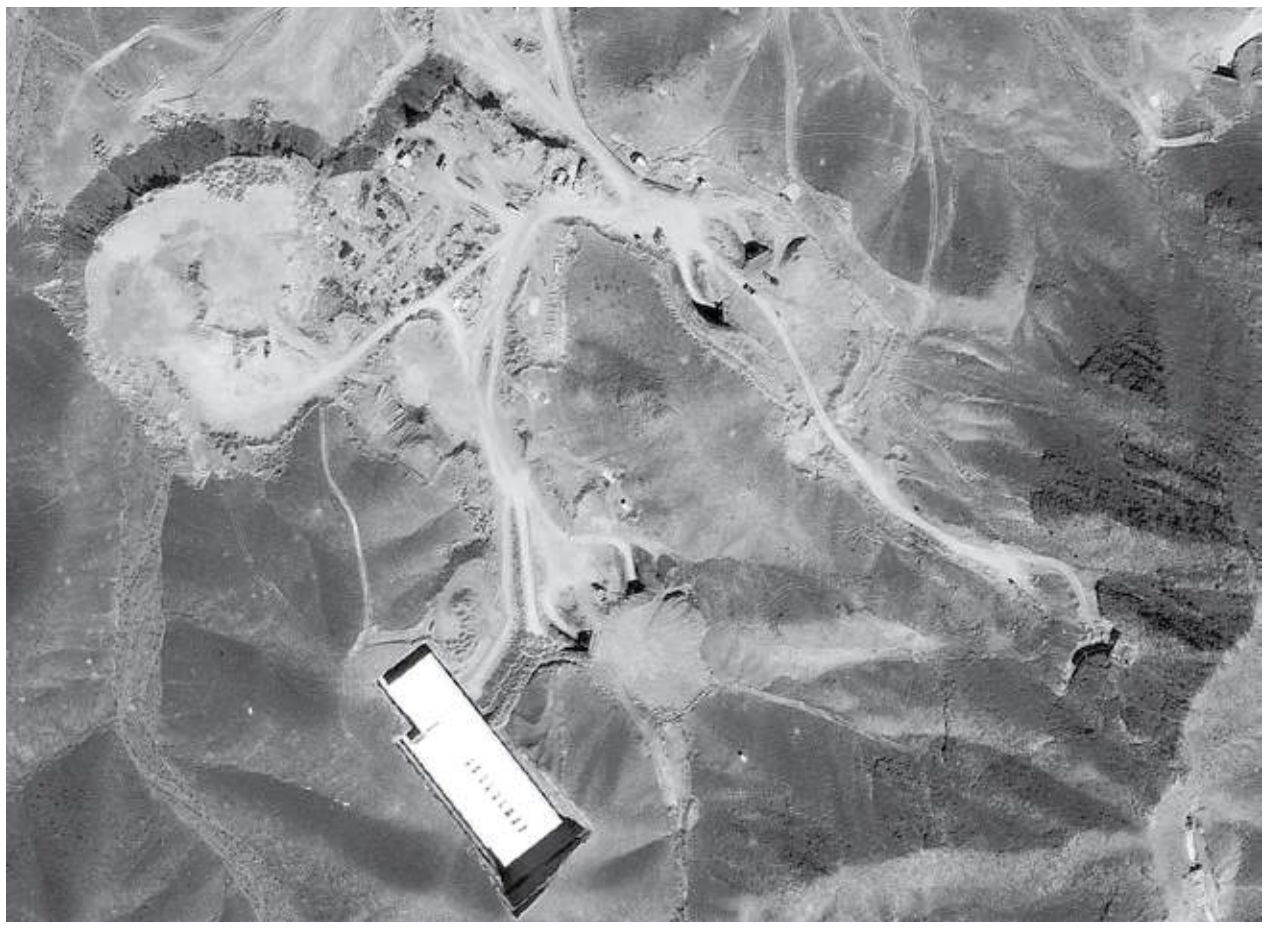
TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran tested its longest-range missiles Monday and warned they can reach any place that threatens the country, including Israel, parts of Europe and U.S. military bases in the Mideast. The launch capped two days of war games and was condemned as a provocation by Western powers, which are demanding Tehran come clean about a newly revealed nuclear facility it has been secretly building.

The tests Sunday and again Monday added urgency to a key meeting this week between Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany—an international front seeking clear answers about the direction of its nuclear program.

Iran's missile program and its nuclear work—much of it carried out in secrecy—have long been a concern for the United States, Israel and its Western allies. They fear Tehran is intent on developing an atomic weapons capability and the missiles to deploy such warheads, despite Iran's assurances it is only pursuing civilian nuclear power.

In the latest exercise, the powerful Revolutionary Guard, which controls Iran's missile program, successfully tested upgraded versions of Iran's medium-range Shahab-3 and Sajjil missiles, state television reported. Both can carry warheads and reach up to 1,200 miles, putting Israel, U.S. military bases in the Middle East and parts of Europe within striking distance.

The launchings were meant to display Iran's military might and demonstrate its readiness to respond to any military threat.



AP

This satellite image taken Saturday Sept. 26, 2009, provided by GeoEye shows a facility under construction inside a mountain located about 20 miles north northeast of Qom, Iran.

"Iranian missiles are able to target any place that threatens Iran," said Abdollah Araqi, a senior Revolutionary Guard commander, according to the semiofficial Fars news agency.

Iran conducted three rounds of missile tests in drills that began Sunday, two days after the U.S. and its allies disclosed the country had been secretly developing an underground uranium enrichment facility. The Western powers warned Iran must open the site to international inspection or face harsher international sanctions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hasan Qashqavi, maintained the missile tests had nothing to do with the tension over the site, saying they were part of routine, long-planned military exercises.

US *eyes energy, financial sanctions on* Iran

NEW YORK (AP)—The Obama administration is planning to push for new sanctions against Iran, targeting its energy, financial and telecommunications sectors if it does not comply with international demands to come clean about its nuclear program, according to U.S. officials.

The officials said the U.S. would expand its own penalties against Iranian companies and press for greater international sanctions against foreign firms, largely European, that do business in the country unless Iran can prove that its nuclear activities are not aimed at developing an atomic weapon.

Among the ideas being considered are asset freezes and travel bans against Iranian and foreign businesses and individuals who do business in those areas, the officials said. The officials spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because the measures were still under review.

The proposed sanctions would largely focus on investment in Iran's energy infrastructure and development, the officials said. Until now, the sanctions have dealt mainly with companies and people suspected of buying or selling weapons of mass destruction or their components.

Diplomats from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—as well as Germany meet with Iran's top nuclear negotiator on Thursday to press once again an offer of incentives for Iran to halt suspect activity.

But U.S. officials familiar with the process that dates back to the Bush administration are skeptical that Iran will agree to demands to fully disclose its intentions. Iran repeatedly has denied it wants the bomb and that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

Previous meetings—the last in July 2008—have not made progress and the officials said they did not think Thursday's talks in Geneva would produce any significant developments on the nuclear front.

Hondurans weary after 3 months of coup dispute

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' interim president promised to restore civil liberties and allow into the country an Organization of American States mediation team, quickly backpedalling from tough measures amid criticism from his own allies that he had gone too far in his fight to stay in power.

Roberto Micheletti's decision Monday to reverse an emergency decree declared a day earlier reflected the largest public show of dissent within the ranks of his supporters to date. Some conservatives feared the decree would endanger the Nov. 29 presidential election, which they consider Honduras' best hope for regaining international recognition.

Zelaya, speaking via telephone to a United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, deplored the decree, which suspended freedoms of speech and assembly and allowed warrantless arrests. He called it proof "this is a fascist dictatorship that has repressed the Honduran people."

The interim government said the measures were needed to counter calls for civil war by Zelaya's supporters.

The reversals came in a roller-coaster 24 hours.

Micheletti first gave the Brazilian government a 10-day ultimatum to get rid of Zelaya—who has been holed up at the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa since sneaking back into the country Sept. 21—warning Brazil it would have to take down its flag and remove the embassy crest. Then on Monday, Micheletti said he wanted to send "a big hug" to Brazil's president and pledged nothing would happen to the diplomatic mission.

Czech trip was low-key, but pope is 'very happy'

PRAGUE (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI wrapped up a low-key pilgrimage to the fiercely secular Czech Republic on Monday, reaching out to nonbelievers and calling on an increasingly diverse Europe to embrace Christian teachings.

Throughout the three-day visit, the crowds were contained, and so was the pope's rhetoric.

Although he often wades into contentious issues such as abortion or same-sex marriage, this time a conciliatory Benedict—apparently unwilling to antagonize already apathetic Czechs—made no direct mention of either.

But the Vatican pronounced the pontiff's 13th foreign trip a success. So did President Vaclav Klaus, a non-Catholic, who called it "extraordinarily successful."

Benedict's spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the 82-year-old pope was "very happy" with the response in the ex-communist country, one of Europe's most secular nations.

While acknowledging there is little the Vatican can do to radically change the situation, Lombardi said the church must send a loud and clear appeal as a "minority" and get out its message of love and hope.

"The solution is to encourage," Lombardi told reporters.

Benedict visited less than two months before Czechs celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, which peacefully toppled a communist regime that had persecuted Roman Catholics and confiscated church property.

On Monday, a national holiday honoring St. Wenceslas, the nation's martyred patron saint, the German-born pope held an open-air Mass in the town of Stara Boleslav, just northeast of Prague.

At least 40,000 faithful—some from nearby Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia—packed a meadow to hear the pope point to Wenceslas as a model for leaders and urge the world to follow the ethical principles of Christianity.

WORLD BRIEFS

String of bombings kills at least 18 in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A string of bombings killed at least 18 people across Iraq on Monday, shattering a relative lull in violence during the celebration last week that marked the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The blasts primarily targeted Iraqi security forces, which have been the focal point of insurgent attacks since U.S. troops pulled out of Iraq's cities at the end of June. The uptick in violence also comes as the country's shops and schools reopened after the Eid holiday that follows the end of the Muslim holy month. The deadliest attack Monday occurred in Ramadi, about 70 miles (115 kilometer) west of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber slammed a tanker truck packed with explosives into a police outpost, killing at least seven people and wounding 16 more, a security official said.

Fujimori pleads guilty in Peru corruption trial

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Former President Alberto Fujimori, who already faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison, pleaded guilty on Monday to authorizing illegal wiretaps and bribes of politicians, journalists and businessmen. Fujimori, 71 and ailing, appeared to sleep during chief prosecutor Jose Pelaez's accusation, but stirred at the close of the session to say three words to the presiding judge: "Sir, I agree." Pelaez requested an eight-year sentence for the illegal wiretaps, bribes and embezzlement, which would be served concurrently with a 25-year sentence imposed in Fujimori's previous murder and kidnapping trial.

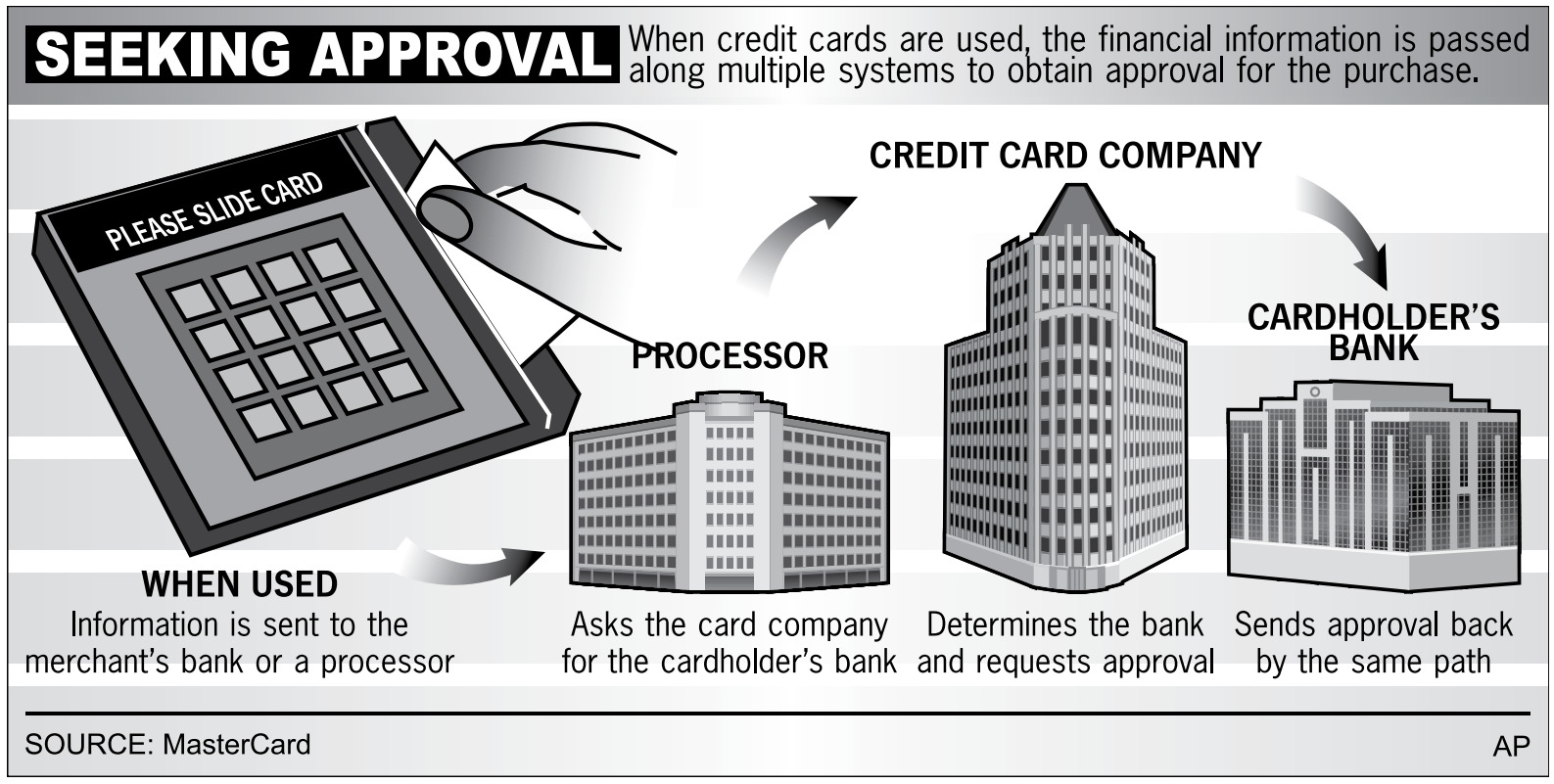
Terror charges dropped against Zimbabwe activist

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—A prominent human rights activist and her co-accused cannot be tried—now or in the future—on terror charges because they were beaten and tortured in jail, Zimbabwe's Supreme Court ruled Monday. Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku said the court was issuing a permanent stay of prosecution in the case of Jestina Mukoko and eight other defendants because their constitutional rights had been violated. Such a ruling from judges appointed by longtime President Robert Mugabe could signal a new willingness on his part to meet demands for reform from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, his partner in the country's troubled unity government. But in a country that seems to lurch from promising to perilous from day to day, trends are hard to spot.

Focus

Weak security enables credit card hacks

By JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER


SEEKING APPROVAL
When credit cards are used, the financial information is passed along multiple systems to obtain approval for the purchase.
PLEASE SLIDE CARD
CREDIT CARD COMPANY
PROCESSOR
CARDHOLDER'S BANK
WHEN USED
Information is sent to the merchant's bank or a processor
Asks the card company for the cardholder's bank
Determines the bank and requests approval
Sends approval back by the same path
SOURCE: MasterCard
AP

Every time you swipe your credit card and wait for the transaction to be approved, sensitive data including your name and account number are ferried from store to bank through computer networks, each step a potential opening for hackers.

And while you may take steps to protect yourself against identity theft, an Associated Press investigation has found the banks and other companies that handle your information are not being nearly as cautious as they could.

The government leaves it to card companies to design security rules that protect the nation's 50 billion annual transactions. Yet an examination of those industry requirements explains why so many breaches occur: The rules are cursory at best and all but meaningless at worst, according to the AP's analysis of data breaches dating to 2005.

It means every time you pay with plastic, companies are gambling with your personal data. If hackers intercept your numbers, you'll spend weeks straightening your mangled credit, though you can't be held liable for unauthorized charges. Even if your transaction isn't hacked, you still lose: Merchants pass to all their customers the costs they incur from fraud.

More than 70 retailers and payment processors have disclosed breaches since 2006, involving tens of millions of credit and debit card numbers, according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Meanwhile, many others likely have been breached and didn't detect it. Even the companies that had the payment industry's top rating for computer security, a seal of approval known as PCI compliance, have fallen victim to huge heists.

Companies that are not compliant with the PCI standards—including one in 10 of the medium-sized and large retailers in the United States—face fines but are left free to process credit and debit card payments. Most retailers don't have to endure security audits, but can evaluate themselves.

Credit card providers don't appear to be in a rush to tighten the rules. They see fraud as a cost of doing business and say stricter security would throw sand into the gears of the payment system, which is built on speed, convenience and low cost.

That is of little consolation to consumers who bet on the industry's payment security and lost.

It took four months for Pamela LaMotte, 46, of Colchester, Vt., to fix the damage after two of her credit card accounts were tapped by hackers in a breach traced to a Hannaford Bros. grocery store.

LaMotte, who was unemployed at the time, says she had to borrow money from her mother and boyfriend to pay $500 in overdraft and late fees—which were eventually refunded—while the banks investigated.

"Maybe somebody who doesn't live paycheck to paycheck, it wouldn't matter to them too much, but for me it screwed me up in a major way," she said. LaMotte says she pays more by cash and check now.

It all happened at a supermarket chain that met the PCI standards. Someone installed malicious software on Hannaford's servers that snatched customer data while it was being sent to the banks for approval.

Since then, hackers plundered two companies that process payments and had PCI certification. Heartland Payment Systems lost card numbers, expiration dates and other data for potentially hundreds of millions of shoppers. RBS WorldPay Inc. got taken for more than 1 million Social Security numbers - a golden ticket to hackers that enables all kinds of fraud.

In the past, each credit card company had its own security rules, a system that was chaotic for stores.

In 2006, the big card brands—Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and JCB International—formed the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council and created uniform security rules for merchants.

Avivah Litan, a Gartner Inc. analyst, says retailers and payment processors have spent more than $2 billion on security upgrades to comply with PCI. And the payment industry touts the fact that 93 percent of big retailers in the U.S., and 88 percent of medium-sized ones, are compliant with the PCI rules.

That leaves plenty of merchants out, of course, but the main threat against them is a fine: $25,000 for big retailers for each month they are not compliant, $5,000 for medium-sized ones.

Computer security experts say the PCI guidelines are superficial, including requirements that stores run antivirus software and install computer firewalls. Those steps are designed to keep hackers out and customer data in. Yet tests that simulate hacker attacks are required just once a year, and businesses can run the tests themselves.

"It's like going to a doctor and getting your blood pressure read, and if your blood pressure's good you get a clean bill of health," said Tom Kellermann, a former senior member of the World Bank's Treasury security team and now vice president of security awareness for Core Security Technologies, which audited Google's Internet payment processing system.

Merchants that decide to hire an outside auditor to check for compliance with the PCI rules need not spend much. Though some firms generally charge about $60,000 and take months to complete their inspections, others are far cheaper and faster.

"PCI compliance can cost just a couple hundred bucks," said Jeremiah Grossman, founder of WhiteHat Security Inc., a Web security firm. "If that's the case, all the incentives are in the wrong direction. The merchants are inclined to go with the cheapest certification they need."

For some inspectors, the certification course takes just one weekend and ends in an open-book exam. Applicants must have five years of computer security experience, but once they are let loose, there's little oversight of their work. Larger stores take it on themselves to provide evidence to auditors that they comply with the rules, leaving the door open for mistakes or fraud.

And retailers with fewer than 6 million annual card transactions—a group comprising more than 99 percent of all retailers—do not even need auditors. They can test and evaluate themselves.

At the same time, the card companies themselves are increasingly hands-off.

Two years ago, Visa scaled back its review of inspection records for the payment processors it works with. It now examines records only for payment processors with computer networks directly connected to Visa's.

In the U.S., that means fewer than 100 payment processors out of the 700 that Visa works with are PCI-compliant.

Visa's head of global data security, Eduardo Perez, said the company scaled back its records review because it took too much work and because the PCI standards have improved the industry's security "considerably."

"I think we've made a lot of progress," he said. "While there have been a few large compromises, there are many more compromises we feel we've helped prevent by driving these minimum requirements."

Representatives for MasterCard, American Express, Discover and JCB—which, along with Visa, steer PCI policy—either didn't return messages from the AP or directed questions to the PCI security council.

PCI's general manager, Bob Russo, said inspector certification is "rigorous." Yet he also acknowledged that inconsistent audits are a problem - and that merchants and payment processors who suffered data breaches possibly shouldn't have been PCI-certified. Those companies also might have easily fallen out of compliance after their inspection, by not installing the proper security updates, and nobody noticed.

The council is trying to crack down on shoddy work by requiring annual audits for the dozen companies that do the bulk of the PCI inspections. Smaller firms will be examined once every three years.

Those reviews merely scratch the surface, though. Only three full-time staffers are assigned to the task, and they can't visit retailers themselves. They are left to review the paperwork from the examinations.

The AP contacted eight of the biggest "acquiring banks"—the banks that retailers use as middlemen between the stores and consumers' banks. Those banks are responsible for ensuring that retailers are PCI compliant. Most didn't return calls or wouldn't comment for this story.

Mike Herman, compliance managing director for Chase Paymentech, a division of JPMorgan Chase, said his bank has five workers reviewing compliance reports from retailers. Most of the work is done by phone or e-mail.

"We have faith in the certification process, and we really haven't doubted the assessors' work," Herman said. "It's really the merchants that don't engage assessors; those get a little more scrutiny."

He defended the system: "Can you imagine how many breaches we'd have and how severe they'd be if we didn't have PCI?"

Supporters of PCI point out nearly all big and medium-sized retailers governed by the standard now say they no longer store sensitive cardholder data. Just a few years ago they did—leaving credit card numbers in databases that were vulnerable to hackers.

So why are breaches still happening? Because criminals have sharpened their attacks and are now capturing more data as it makes its way from store to bank, when breaches are harder to stop.

Security experts say there are several steps the payment industry could take to make sure customer information doesn't leak out of networks.

Banks could scramble the data that travels over payment networks, so it would be meaningless to anyone not authorized to see it.

For example, TJX Cos., the chain that owns T.J. Maxx and Marshalls and was victimized by a breach that exposed as many as 100 million accounts, the most on record, has tightened its security but says many banks won't accept data in encrypted form.

PCI requires data transmitted across "open, public networks" to be encrypted, but that means hackers with access to a company's internal network still can get at it. Requiring encryption all the time would be expensive and slow transactions.

Another possibility: Some security professionals think the banks and credit card companies should start their own PCI inspection arms to make sure the audits are done properly. Banks say they have stepped up oversight of the inspections, doing their own checks of questionable PCI assessment jobs. But taking control of the whole process is far-fetched: nobody wants the liability.

PCI could also be optional. In its place, some experts suggest setting fines for each piece of sensitive data a retailer loses.

The U.S. might also try a system like Europe's, where shoppers need a secret PIN code and card with a chip inside to complete purchases. The system, called Chip and PIN, has cut down on fraud there (because it's harder to use counterfeit cards), but transferred it elsewhere—to places like the U.S. that don't have as many safeguards.

A key reason PCI exists is that the banks and card brands don't want the government regulating credit card security. These companies also want to be sure transactions keep humming through the system—which is why banks and card companies are willing to put up with some fraud.

"If they did mind, they have immense resources and could really change things," said Ed Skoudis, co-founder of security consultancy InGuardians Inc. and an instructor with the SANS Institute, a computer-security training organization. Skoudis investigates retail breaches in support of government investigations. "But they don't want to strangle the goose that laid the golden egg by making it too hard to accept credit cards, because that's bad for everybody."

Campus Life

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sgt. Noel T. Chargualaf presents VJay Cepeda with a U.S. flag during his visit to the student's class at San Vicente Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vincent J. White Cepeda Jr. is shown here being presented with an authentic and personalized Army boonie hat from Sgt. Noel T. Chargualaf. Also show in the picture is VJ's proud mom, Rebecca C. White.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sgt. Noel T. Chargualaf presents a "Go for Broke" coin to VJay Cepeda during a visit to the student's class at San Vicente Elementary School.

Letter from SVES student inspires local soldier

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A simple thank you letter accompanied by a self-made artwork by a fifth grader in San Vicente Elementary School made the world go round for an active service member, who made sure to return the kind gesture with simple gifts for the young student.

Sgt. Noel T. Chargualaf of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Echo Company, was in Kuwait during the holidays when he received the inspiring artwork and meaningful message of Vincent J. White Cepeda Jr.

In his inspirational letter, Cepeda, 9, wrote the soldier about his daily activities in school, the lessons he learned from various subjects, and even shared jokes that he believed would lighten the serious atmosphere in the battle field.

"Soldier, thank you for our freedom. Thank you for protecting us, for your courage and bravery…the island spirit will respect your strong heart and will honor dearly your bravery forever," Cepeda's message stated.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vincent J. White Cepeda Jr. poses with his teacher, Betty Miller, proud grandma Rose C. White, Sgt. Noel T. Chargualaf, mom Rebecca C. White, and Rita Chargualaf.

But what truly inspired the soldier was the artwork depicting the island's atmosphere during the holidays.

According to Rita Chargualaf, wife of the service member, she recalled the day when her husband received Cepeda's letter in Kuwait.

"He was describing on the phone how he was moved by Cepeda's art work. The island scenery made him miss home and the family dearly, but at the same time motivated him to complete his mission each day," Mrs. Chargualaf said, adding that Cepeda's jokes with his husband was something he missed when he hangs out with their three children.

Upon his return to the island, Chargualaf made an unexpected visit to Cepeda's school.

Sgt. Chargualaf presented Cepeda with a U.S. flag, a personalized hat and a "Go for Broke" coin. The front of the personalized hat had Cepeda's first name printed in English and Arabic. The hat also had the U.S. flag and Kuwait flag.

"[That's] the least he could do to express his appreciation for taking time out of his school work to write the letter and to draw," Mrs. Chargualaf said, adding that experiences like this is worth sharing with others.

She encouraged more students to write letters to servicemembers from the CNMI who are still actively serving in all branches of the military, especially since the holidays are coming up.

Hemodialysis technicians complete exam training

The Northern Marianas College recently awarded 25 certificates of competence to participants of the Patient Care Technician National Certification Exam Training Course, which was facilitated by the Community Development Institute under the Division of Community Programs and Services.

The course was designed to ensure that hemodialysis facility staff meet the qualifications, scope of practice, and board and licensure requirements of the state in which they are employed. In addition, the course helped prepare participants for the upcoming Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician Examination in November. The course also fulfilled the exam requirement for classroom training hours.

Participants in the course include staff from the St. Jude Renal Care Facility, staff from the Commonwealth Health Center's Hemodialysis Clinic, and members of the community. Several staff members from the Rota Health Center also participated in the course with support from the Rota Mayor's Office and RHC. NMC also provided technical support with the college's video teleconferencing technology, which enabled RHC participants to attend classes from Rota.

NMC

Students of the Patient Care Technician National Certification Exam Training course pose with instructor Johnny Aldan, far right, at the completion of the course. The training course was coordinated in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs & Services.

"This training course was an excellent opportunity for hemodialysis technicians to sharpen their skills and expand their knowledge," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The college will continue to facilitate similar training focused on many other professional areas."

CDI program coordinator Les Ogumoro-Uludong, and NMC testing site coordinator Annie Santos collaborated with St. Jude Renal Care Facility and CHC Hemodialysis Clinic to create the course to assist current hemodialysis staff in obtaining certification and meeting Medicare requirements. NMC Nursing instructor Johnny Aldan taught the course covering various aspects of hemodialysis, such as caring for a person with kidney failure, operating and identifying hemodialysis devices, practicing proper procedures, and handling complications during treatment. ***(NMC)***

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Chacha PTSA meeting today

The Cha Cha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having its first 2009-2010 PTSA meeting today, Sept. 30, 2009, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the cafeteria. Should you have any questions, call the school at 237-3921. ***(PR)***

SSHS to issue mid-progress reports

Parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students are being informed that mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 12:50pm. ***(PR)***

Beginners' conversational Korean classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center - Korean Language School has developed KSL (Korean as Second Language) and KTL (Korean as Third Language) programs. And the Center provides Beginners' classes at Northern Marianas College as a CDI program. Anyone interested in learning the Korean language can join the October classes. It's almost free. If you are too busy to come during working hours, just call for the free visit-registration service. The proposed class time is on Tuesday or Friday, but it can be changed according to the situation of the participants and the details will be announced later. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221, e-mail: korean2221@gmail.com.

Life & Style

LA prosecutors: Polanski efforts go back decades

AP

A man showing a "Free Polanski" sticker waits at the film festival in Zurich, Switzerland, Sunday Sept. 27, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With Roman Polanski under arrest in Switzerland, American prosecutors Monday disputed a claim by the director that they had never tried to nab him after he fled overseas to escape sentencing on charges he had sex with an underage girl.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office said it had multiple contacts with several countries in efforts to arrest the Academy Award-winning filmmaker, including once with Israel as recently as 2007.

Polanski's arrest in Switzerland on Saturday sparked an international outcry from prominent European supporters and drew questions about why American authorities chose to act now even though Polanski has been living and working openly in Europe for decades.

In a statement, authorities challenged recent court filings by Polanski's lawyers that suggested he had not been arrested because doing so could draw attention to alleged misconduct by prosecutors.

"The District Attorney's Office in the 30 years since Mr. Polanski left the jurisdiction, has not once sought to have him extradited," the attorneys wrote in a July filing. "If it had, there would have been a hearing regarding the misconduct in this case."

Jean Rosenbluth, a University of Southern California law professor and a former federal prosecutor, said Polanski's allegations "probably brought him back onto the prosecutor's radar screen. The only way to resolve this is to have Mr. Polanski come back here."

"Prosecutors are people too. If you thumb your nose at them, they might thumb their nose back," she said.

She questioned prosecutors' decision to discuss the steps they took.

Jackson films sells out screenings worldwide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Michael Jackson music documentary is selling out theaters around the world.

According to Sony Pictures, hundreds of show times have sold out since tickets went on sale Sunday for "Michael Jackson: This Is It."

The film was built around rehearsal footage for the late singer's planned London concerts. It opens Oct. 28 for a two-week limited run.

Advance shows in some markets the night before also are selling out. All 3,000 tickets for screenings at a Los Angeles cinema were snapped up in two hours, with some fans lining up for nearly three days.

Sony says that 30,000 tickets were sold in the first 24 hours in London, while $1 million worth of tickets were sold in Japan within the same time period.

France rushes to Polanski's defense

PARIS (AP)—Was Roman Polanski "thrown to the lions because of ancient history?" That's what the French culture minister says—though not everyone in France agrees.

The French government has rushed to the filmmaker's defense since he was arrested this weekend in Switzerland on a U.S. warrant in connection with his guilty plea to having having sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977.

Government ministers and France's cultural world have lauded Polanski as a great artist, a family man and a survivor of countless hardships who deserves peace at age 76.

In Paris, Polanski is not a fugitive wanted for a sex crime, but rather a revered artist and public figure who has never had much reason to hide.

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 29, 2008, file photo, Polish director Roman Polanski is seen in Oberhausen, Germany.

While Polanski would have risked arrest to attend the 2003 Academy Awards in Los Angeles—where he was named best director for "The Pianist"—he is free to climb the red carpet at every Cannes Film Festival.

Actor Harrison Ford eventually delivered the golden Oscar statuette to Polanski at another French film festival in the Normandy beach town of Deauville.

Polanski, who has dual French and Polish nationality, has long been protected by France's refusal to extradite its citizens. But there's more to it than that: France's indulgence toward artists has played into sympathy for him among the country's elites, as has the French distaste for peering into public figures' private lives.

Few, if any, prominent figures came out publicly against Polanski, but there were signs that many ordinary French people disagreed with the government's position.

In Celebration of His New Life

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong

Affectionately known as "**Grandpa**"

Born on July 25, 1924.
Was called to his eternal rest by our Dear Lord on
Thursday, September 24, 2009.

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:
WIFE: †Ramona Seman Chong
SONS: †Vincent Raymond S. Chong and Raymond Snodgrass
DAUGHTER: †Dorothy Kawai-Chock
PARENTS: †Maria Lujan Chong Lizama & Jose Chong
STEPFATHER: †Jose Lizama

SISTERS/BROTHERS & SPOUSES:
†Ernesta (Edna) Chong & Lorenzo Ayuyu
†Luis L. Chong
†Francisco L. Chong
†Jesus L. & Josepha S. Chong
†Joaquin L. Chong

SISTER/BROTHER-IN-LAWS:
†Felipe & Maria Seman
†Odorico Seman
†Juan & Esperanza Seman
†Joaquin & Maria Seman
†Jose & Margarita Seman
†Lorenzo Iriarte

HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

SONS/DAUGHTERS & FAMILIES:
Alex S. Chong: Tania (Dexter), Melbeina, Valerie, Alexander, and Dana
Dinah S. Chong: Vera F. Guerrera (Jason — Derek, Kiana and Kaylie); Clint Ferreira (Isa) and Brent Babauta
Doris S. Chong: Claudine/Irvin Babauta (Shannah, Sherina, and Shane); Monte Pladevega, Jr/Caroline (Cameron).; Annette Pladevega (Aaron) and Jillian Pladevega (Vince)
Dominic S. Chong: Jeannie/Delbert Sablan (Johnathan (Jasmine), Deanndrea/Zack (Emilio Joel & Priscilla), Taylor, Delbert Jr., and Gunner); Audrey/ Thomas Pangelinan (Monique, Thomas); Hazel/Alfred Camacho (Gabriel†, and Pasencia); Ruby; Joseph and Nathaniel
Vivian C. & Dion Neth: Yvonne (Kira and Ava); Jason; and Dion, Jr./Marian)
Donovan Jose (DJ) Chong

Son-In-Law: Kyle Chock (Kateleen)

Special Sons: David T. Camacho
Rudy T. Camacho

SISTERS/BROTHER & SPOUSES:
Tomasa C. & Luis T. Camacho
Emilia C. & Mike E. Sablan
Manuel L. & Esperanza Chong

SISTER-IN-LAWS:
Ana T. Chong
Lucia S. Iriarte

Caregivers: Beatriz Flores and Pilar Angeles

He will be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, God Children, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. Rosary is being prayed daily at 7:30 p.m. at the Kristo Rai Church.

On Friday, October 2, his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. The Responso & Holy Rosary, Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Yours Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated.

From the Family

Palin finishes memoir, 'Going Rogue,' out Nov. 17

NEW YORK (AP)—That was fast.

Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate, has finished her memoir just four months after the book deal was announced, and the release date has been moved up from the spring to Nov. 17, her publisher said.

"Governor Palin has been unbelievably conscientious and hands-on at every stage, investing herself deeply and passionately in this project," said Jonathan Burnham, publisher of Harper. "It's her words, her life, and it's all there in full and fascinating detail."

Palin's book, her first, will be 400 pages, said Burnham, who called the fall "the best possible time for a major book of this kind."

The book now has a title, one fitting for a public figure known for the unexpected—"Going Rogue: An American Life."

Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins, has commissioned a huge first printing of 1.5 million copies. Sen. Ted Kennedy's "True Compass," published by Twelve soon after his Aug. 25 death, also had a 1.5 million first printing.

As with the Kennedy book, the digital edition of Palin's memoir will not be released at the same time as the hardcover. "Going Rogue" will not be available as an e-book until Dec. 26 because "we want to maximize hardcover sales over the holidays," Harper spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said Monday.

Publishers have been concerned that e-books, rapidly becoming more popular, might take away sales from hardcover editions, which are more expensive.

Palin, who abruptly resigned as Alaska governor over the summer with more than a year left in her first term, has been an object of fascination since Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate in 2008, chose her as his running mate, making an instant celebrity out of a once-obscure public official.

During last year's campaign, pundits questioned whether Palin hurt McCain's presidential bid by "going rogue," or defying his campaign's control.

Although Democrat Barack Obama easily won the election and Palin was criticized even by some Republicans for being inexperienced, she remains a favorite among conservatives and is a rumored contender for 2012. Interest in her is so high that a fan recently paid $63,500 to have dinner with her, part of an Internet auction for a charity that aids wounded veterans.

Palin, 45, spent weeks in San Diego shortly after leaving office and worked on the manuscript with collaborator Lynn Vincent, a person close to her said. She was joined in San Diego by her family and her top aide, Meghan Stapleton, then spent several days in New York working around the clock with editors at Harper, said the person, who wasn't authorized to comment and asked not to be identified.

SUMMIT NOTEBOOK

Michelle Obama's request hour

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Hey, Michelle Obama—what's on your iPod?

Sara Bareilles, among other things.

If the singer-songwriter didn't know already, she—and plenty of other people, too—now know that the first lady is one of her biggest fans.

"I love her," Mrs. Obama gushed Friday, giving a shout-out to Bareilles for the performance she was giving at a concert the first lady organized for students at the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School.

"She is on my iPod. She has gotten me through many a day," Mrs. Obama said, ticking off the names of two of Bareilles' songs, "Gravity" and "Love Song." Bareilles performed the latter selection during the show.

Mrs. Obama could hardly contain her excitement as she said country crooner Trisha Yearwood, "another of my favorites," and cellist Yo-Yo Ma would be performing.

"You know, what more is there to say?" she said after uttering the world famous cellist's name. "I'm just (as) excited as you all." Smiles, everyone—smiles!

This G-20's "class photo" lacked, shall we say, enthusiastic buy-in from all the leaders involved.

In a room confined by drapes and tall black pipes, the men and women who run the world clustered to have their Kodak moment together.

"Everyone say cheese," Obama said. He grinned, and some of his fellow leaders smiled in less-thrilled ways. After a few moments—flash, click, flash, click—the president pronounced the proceedings complete. "OK, guys," he said. "One of those must have worked."

Next came a rather disorganized exit. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Obama did a little footwork trying to defer to each other before Hu finally walked out first.

No word on whether wallet-sized prints were distributed later.

AP

In this Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama welcome Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as he arrives for the G-20 summit dinner in Pittsburgh.

Daughter: Newman liked being on Nixon enemies list

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Paul Newman liked to joke about his trademark blue eyes, musing that if they turned brown his career might be in jeopardy, and was delighted to learn he was on Richard Nixon's enemies list, the Academy Award-winning actor's daughter said Monday.

Nell Newman, whose father died a year ago at age 83, gave a rare glimpse into the actor's life in an interview with The Associated Press. She was meeting with reporters in Connecticut as part of an effort by her company, Newman's Own Organics, to highlight its partnership with McDonald's Corp., where it sells coffee at McDonald's New England restaurants.

She said her father considered himself lucky and wanted to give back, leading to his passion for philanthropy.

"He always used to joke if his eyes turned brown, what would happen to his career," she said. "He always felt he was just really lucky."

The Hollywood star won an Oscar and took home two honorary ones, and had major roles in more than 50 motion pictures, including "Cool Hand Luke," "Exodus," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Verdict," "The Sting" and "Absence of Malice."

Despite his Hollywood success, Newman preferred the company of race car mechanics to the Beverly Hills jet set. He and his family were most comfortable in Westport, the southwestern Connecticut town where they fished and roamed the land with their five dogs, including her dad's Irish wolfhound, his daughter said. The family also had six cats and even a pet skunk, Newman said.

AP

Nell Newman, president and co-founder of Newman's Own Organics, talks with a reporter while visiting the Flatbush Avenue McDonald's in Hartford, Conn., on Monday, Sept. 28, 2009.

Newman said her father enjoyed cooking and often took her to a farm stand in Westport and taught her how to pick the perfect corn and other vegetables and fruits.

She said her father relished playing practical jokes. When a friend took his bottle of gin, Newman went into the friend's office with a chain saw and cut his desk in half, his daughter said.

The actor also saved a document that showed he had turned up on President Nixon's enemies' list.

"He was tickled pink and framed it," Newman said.

Newman and writer A.E. Hotchner started Newman's Own in 1982 to market Newman's original oil-and-vinegar dressing.

The business grew, and it and Newman's Own Organics have given $250 million to charities. The actor left behind a private, independent foundation to carry on the work after he died.

Newman believed in supporting small organizations that did not have wealthy connections, his daughter said. She said her father was especially fond of his Hole in the Wall Gang camps for sick children. The camps have served 130,000 children since 1988.

"He liked quiet philanthropy," Newman said. He "didn't want his name on any buildings."

O'Brien back on 'Tonight,' joking about accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien has turned his "Tonight Show" stunt injury into comedy, showing footage of it as a "cautionary tale" for kids.

"As many of you may know, on this past Friday's show I was doing a stunt and I hit my head and suffered a slight concussion. And I promise, if you're a good audience, I'll do it again tonight," O'Brien said during Monday's taping.

O'Brien

In a transcript released by NBC, he joked that he struck his head so hard "that for five seconds I actually understood the plot of 'Lost.'"

O'Brien and guest Teri Hatcher were in a footrace when he tumbled, forcing Friday's show to be halted. He was taken to a hospital for examination, and a "Tonight" rerun aired instead of the planned episode.

In his monologue Monday, O'Brien joked that he got so much media attention from the accident that he's planning a sequel with one of Hatcher's "Desperate Housewives" co-stars.

"So tune in tomorrow when Eva Longoria pushes me down an elevator shaft," O'Brien quipped.

Before showing clips from Friday, O'Brien suggested parents "wake up your children because this is a cautionary tale."

The race between him and Hatcher was to end at the studio with the two rushing down stairs to the finish line. His memory was fuzzy, O'Brien said Monday, but he thinks he was trying to slide on a slick floor when he lost his footing.

"Why don't we show people what happened. Set your VCR to record, and your friends can all laugh watching this later," he said before the tape rolled. "'His pumpkin really got pounded'—that's my father talking."

O'Brien took over as "Tonight" host in June, after Jay Leno's 17 years on the job. Leno is host of a new daily primetime comedy show for NBC.

Lady Gaga named Billboard's 'Rising Star'

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga's already famous, but she's being honored as Billboard's "Rising Star" at the trade publication's annual Women in Music event this week.

Lady Gaga's debut CD "The Fame" has sold more than 1 million copies since its release late last year, and she's had two No. 1 singles with "Just Dance" and "Poker Face." In November, she kicks off a joint tour with Kanye West.

Lady Gaga will be honored along with Beyonce on Friday. Beyonce was named "Woman of the Year."

Lamar Odom and Khloe Kardashian get married

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lamar Odom and Khloe Kardashian have reportedly tied the knot.

The 29-year-old Los Angeles Lakers forward and the 25-year-old reality TV starlet were married Sunday at a private residence in Beverly Hills, according to People, US Weekly and other entertainment news outlets.

The bride was walked down the aisle by her stepfather, Bruce Jenner. The wedding was attended by several stars, including the bride's sister Kim.

"Tonight was one of the best nights of my life! Khloe & Lamar's wedding was a night to remember!" Kim wrote on Twitter.

Kardashian appears with her family on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Odom agreed to a four-year contract to stay with the Lakers this summer after helping the team win the NBA championship.

In this Sept. 9, 2009 file photo, Khloe Kardashian and Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Lamar Odom pose together at the premiere of the film "Whiteout" in Los Angeles.

AP

In this publicity image released by Jeff Ballard Public Relations, former "American Idol" contestant Justin Guarini, is shown with his bride Reina Capodici at their wedding Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, in Doylestown, Pa.

AP

'American Idol' runner-up Justin Guarini weds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "American Idol" runner-up Justin Guarini has tied the knot.

Guarini's spokesman, Jeff Ballard, said the 30-year-old first-season "American Idol" runner-up married 27-year-old Reina Capodici at a private estate Saturday along the Delaware River near their hometown of Doylestown, Pa. Ballard said there were 50 guests at the private ceremony and no other contestants from the Fox singing competition were in attendance.

Guarini lost the "Idol" crown to Kelly Clarkson in 2002.

Video captures Hugh Jackman chiding cell phone offender

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman knows how to stop the show. He did it recently when a cell phone call interrupted a preview performance of "A Steady Rain," the Broadway play that stars Jackman and Daniel Craig. The moment captured on an amateur video shown by the TMZ.com Web site appears to have been recorded by someone in the audience.

It shows Jackman breaking character to tell the owner of the ringing cell phone, "You want to get that?" as the audience erupts in cheers. As the ringing persists, Jackman pleads: "Come on, just turn it off." He then paces the stage of the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre, waits about a minute for the ringing to stop and the play resumes.

Producers of "A Steady Rain" declined to comment.

The interruption occurred during an intense moment in the play, when Jackman's character, a Chicago policeman, reveals haunting memories.

A customary loudspeaker announcement reminds theatergoers to turn off their phones. Since the incident, ushers who seat patrons and pass out playbills at Schoenfeld are also instructing patrons to silence their phones.

"A Steady Rain," a taut drama about the relationship between two policemen, opens Tuesday for a limited engagement through Dec. 6. The play by Keith Huff already has proven to be a potent box-office winner, playing to capacity audiences since it began previews on Sept. 10.

Jackman won a Tony Award in 2004 for his performance as Peter Allen in the musical "The Boy from Oz." Craig, filmdom's latest James Bond, is making his Broadway debut.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Baz Luhrmann wields judges' paddle on 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man who made "Moulin Rouge" is lending his expertise to "Dancing With the Stars." Baz Luhrmann is serving as a guest judge on the hit ABC dance show on Monday and Tuesday as head judge Len Goodman takes a week off. The 47-year-old Australian filmmaker wrote and directed "Strictly Ballroom" in 1992, which launched his film career. "Dancing" host Tom Bergeron says that movie "was a major inspiration in the creation of this little show." Luhrmann says his mother was a professional ballroom judge and that he called her for advice before his two-day stint on "Dancing."

Fla. conductor breaks back in opening-night fall

DESTIN, Fla. (AP)—A Florida Panhandle conductor is recovering after falling 14 feet into the empty space below a moveable orchestra pit on the opening night of an opera he had written. David Ott fell Friday after the debut of "The Widow's Lantern," an original work written for the Pensacola Opera. Ott told The Associated Press he fractured nine vertebrae, dislocated his shoulder and may have broken an ankle. It happened when the lights were off and he went to retrieve his music, not realizing the Pensacola Orchestra pit had been raised to stage level. He says he landed flat on his back on the concrete basement floor below and that he was lucky he did not injure his spinal cord. He was recovering at home Monday and hopes to conduct again soon.

Former Danielle Steel aide pleads guilty to fraud

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A former aide to Danielle Steel is facing time in federal prison after admitting she stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the romance novelist. Federal prosecutors announced Monday that 47-year-old Kristy Watts, who also goes by the name Kristy Siegrist, pleaded guilty last week to one count of wire fraud and four counts of tax evasion. Prosecutors say Watts admitted stealing at least $400,000 while handling accounting and other duties for Steel. Watts worked for the best-selling author from 1993 to 2008. Investigators determined Watts had deposited checks from Steel's accounts into her own account and used Steel's credit cards for herself. Sentencing is set for Feb. 4 in federal court in San Francisco.

Meaning of 'African-American' reflects nation's past, present

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: On July 23, "Wondering" asked why President Obama is considered to be African-American and you responded that the term "African-American" is used in this country as a label that describes skin color. However, in the U.S. the term is generally applied to black Americans of slave ancestry.

Before the Civil War we were African-American slaves, not considered fully human by the U.S. Constitution. After the Civil War and the outlawing of slavery, former slaves gained citizenship through amendments to the Constitution but were not able to exercise the full rights of citizenship. Most former slaves wanted to just be "Americans" with all the rights and privileges associated with it—but because of the color of their skin were discriminated against and given second-class citizenship.

The term "African-American" is the result of a search for identity by these new Americans, former slaves and their descendants. We were called by many names—most of them negative, such as "Negro," "Colored," "African," the infamous "N-word," "Afro-American" and finally, "black." All of these at one time we considered negative because they didn't represent self-identification.

The black power movement occurred when Black Americans changed the negative term "black" to the positive term "Black." The musician James Brown coined the phrase, "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud." Later other black folk began to adopt the term "African-American," which brings us to the present.

We are a nation that has roots in all nations of the world. Truly, "we ARE the world." We're all American, either by birth or naturalization. The labels tend to divide us into groups which separate us rather than bring us together. The saying "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" is true. Let us all come together and all be blessed.

REV. ALTON E. PARIS, AMERICAN

DEAR REV. PARIS: Thank you for your letter, which is both inspiring and educational. Many readers had comments about my answer, and they were all over the map. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a white female with many African-American friends, and yes, I did vote for Obama. When Obama became president, most of my black friends said: "Finally! We have a black man as president. All this racism will stop. The white man is no longer in charge of things."

To me, it was like it didn't matter that his mother was white, he was raised by his grandmother who was white, and he is half-white. What I'm trying to say is, he's a man of equal parts—not all black. So why do African-Americans make it sound like he is of all black heritage? Isn't he of white heritage also? A lot of my white friends feel the same way I do.

NANCY G. IN CLEVELAND

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please inform "Wondering" that according to Webster's Dictionary, President Obama is mulatto, which is a person who is a first-generation offspring of a black person and a white person.

WILLIAM B., CLAYTON, N.J.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When living in America, I am called an African-American. If I move to Africa, would I be called an American-African?

KENNETH F., SARALAND, ALA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many biracial children are considered to be part of the ethnic group they resemble the most. While some may consider it disrespectful to say that someone is of one race when he or she is really biracial, this is the world we live in. We do, truly, "call 'em like we see 'em"!

DEVYN B., FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

READERS: I'll have more on this tomorrow.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

PHOOEY. MOM AND DAD LEFT. NOW WE'RE HERE ALONE WITH THE BABY SITTER FROM THE BLACK LAGOON.
HEE HEE! DO YOU THINK SHE REMEMBERS HOW LAST TIME WE THREATENED TO FLUSH HER SCIENCE NOTES DOWN THE TOILET?
HA HA HA! OUR FINEST MOMENT!
OK, YOU, GET IN BED.
WHAT?!
IT'S NOT EVEN 6:30!
SHE REMEMBERS, ALL RIGHT.
SHE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. WE'LL CALL THE RESCUE SQUAD.
9/30
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'LL BET THERE ARE FISH IN THIS LAKE
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, FAT BOY!
YOU'RE ALL WET
IT WAS WORTH IT
JIM DAVIS 9-30
www.garfield.com
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE KIDS' PICKY EATING.
I'VE HEARD YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE IT, AND THEY'LL EVENTUALLY GROW OUT OF IT.
NO, NO... I'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.
MAYBE BROCCOLI SMOOSHED INTO COOKIE DOUGH...
MARELL
9-30
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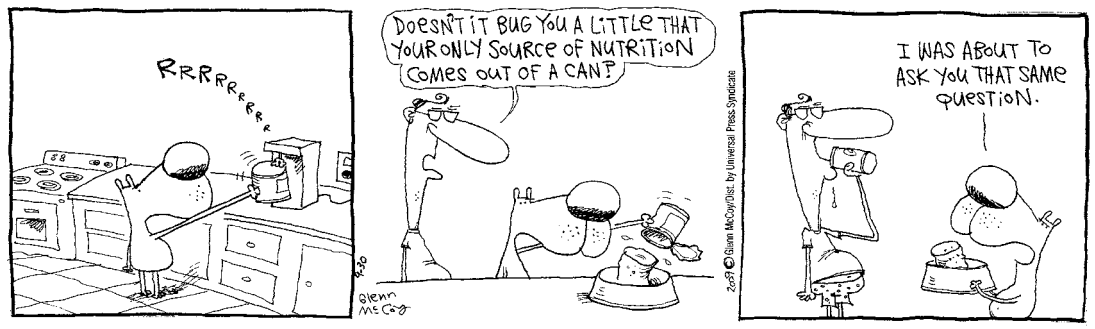
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RRRRRRRR
DOESN'T IT BUG YOU A LITTLE THAT YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF NUTRITION COMES OUT OF A CAN?
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THAT SAME QUESTION.
Glenn McCoy
2-09 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Badly lit
4 Burn somewhat
8 Commanded
12 Literary collection
13 Impel
14 Shaving cream additive
15 Gelid
16 Dangerously fast
18 Sandbank
20 Favorite
21 Costa —
24 Handrail support
28 Shortcut to a Web site
32 "The Amazing —"
33 Heidi's height
34 Iroquois' foes
36 Dance syllable
37 Cabbage recipe
39 Depositor's record
41 37-Across, e.g.
43 Acerbic
44 Tall tale
46 House-paint type
50 "— Mountain"
55 Boston Bruins legend
56 Start over
57 Despondent
58 — Khan
59 It takes the cake
60 Coaster
61 60-Across, e.g.

DOWN
1 Speaker's spot
2 Minimal distance
3 BLT enhancement
4 Glorious
5 Screw up
6 Census stat
7 Harvest
8 Witty repartee
9 Hearty quaff
10 "What's up, —?"
11 "A mouse!"
17 Barbie's companion
19 Noah's craft
22 Sugar or starch, for short
23 Met expectations?
25 Texas city
26 Reverberate
27 Plumbing problem
28 Low voice
29 Earthen pot
30 October birthstone
31 Gambling game
35 Moved furtively
38 Bit part, maybe
40 A couple of cups?
42 Conk out
45 Recedes
47 Perfectly
48 Therefore
49 Picture of health?
50 Buddy
51 Gun the engine
52 Praise in verse
53 The whole enchilada
54 Shuffleboard stick

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	N	U	S	■	B	U	L	B	■	G	N	U
F	E	T	A	■	A	G	E	E	■	O	A	K
F	E	E	L	S	B	L	U	E	■	E	V	E
■	■	■	T	R	A	Y	■	H	O	S	E	S
B	Y	T	E	S	■	■	B	I	N	G	■	■
L	O	U	D	■	P	R	O	V	E	R	B	S
E	R	R	■	W	A	I	T	E	■	E	R	A
D	E	N	T	I	S	T	S	■	T	E	A	M
■	■	S	I	N	S	■	■	F	U	N	D	S
W	A	G	E	D	■	T	B	A	R	■	■	■
H	U	R	■	S	E	E	I	N	G	R	E	D
A	R	A	■	O	V	A	L	■	I	O	T	A
M	A	Y	■	R	A	K	E	■	D	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 9-30

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kieran Culkin, 27; Lacey Chabert, 27; Dominique Moceanu, 28; Jenna Elfman, 38

Happy Birthday: Your unique way of doing things will capture the attention of someone who can help you along the way. You have already set the stage for success by working out the details, so take action and see where all your hard work can lead. An activity will lead you to the top people in an industry that interests you. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 25, 27, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An opportunity that will allow you to profit and learn at the same time will present itself. Make last-minute changes if it will ease your mind and secure your position. Domestic or house problems will surface; stay calm. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An opportunity will occur—be ready to take on the challenge. You won't have to look far to find answers but verify all the facts you've been given. An exaggerated point of view can throw you off-course. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You are facing a no-win situation that must be handled with diplomacy. One false move and you may end up defending your position, actions and your integrity. Physical challenges and hard work will take your mind off pressing issues. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Run the show, call the shots and do your thing. That's when you are happiest and do your best work. A home-based business will bring benefits down the road. Give extra care to an older friend or relative. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Temptation may get the better of you when it comes to parting with your hard-earned cash. Don't believe the sales pitch you are given. Do your research. Chances are that whatever you are being told is too good to be true. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be inclined to take on someone else's responsibility. In doing so, you will open up a channel of communication with someone who has something to offer. Meeting someone extraordinary will change the way you think about your future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think outside the box when it comes to your social networking or investment plans. You stand to profit in many ways if you get involved with people who can offer you the skills needed to complete something you are pursuing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If something doesn't seem right to you, it probably isn't. Don't give in to anyone trying to convince you to make unnecessary changes. Stay put until you have everything in place and the protection you need to move forward. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone will criticize you for your inability to follow through with a promise. Trying to talk your way out of a situation may work in the initial stages but, sooner or later, you will be questioned and asked to keep your word. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let past pressures or memories stand in your way. Old emotions may flare up but, in the end, you have to be rational and do what's best for yourself. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may be uncertain about where you fit into their future. If you can't get a straight answer, move on and cut your losses. Invest in yourself by signing up for a course, investing your money or doing something to update your look. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may have to answer questions if you haven't done things by the rules. A relationship will need a little tender-loving-care if you don't want to send the wrong signal. A short trip for two can do wonders for your love life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, entertaining and insightful. You are a trendsetter with pizzazz plus integrity.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
			7	8	5		9	6
5		7				1		3
7		5				4		2
9	8						3	5
	1						7	
		2				3		
		6	5		8	9		
			6	4	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	6	9	4	2	8	3	1	7
4	1	3	5	7	6	9	2	8
7	8	2	3	1	9	4	5	6
1	7	5	9	3	4	6	8	2
3	2	6	1	8	5	7	4	9
9	4	8	7	6	2	5	3	1
2	3	1	6	5	7	8	9	4
8	9	7	2	4	3	1	6	5
6	5	4	8	9	1	2	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AURORA PENS **Solution: 7 letters**

T	N	T	W	E	O	I	C	A	(T)	(I)	(P)	(S)	I	G
A	N	G	F	N	K	U	P	E	D	I	L	G	S	N
L	K	E	I	A	R	O	A	S	E	T	S	R	S	I
E	O	R	M	S	R	A	R	T	I	S	T	I	E	L
N	O	Y	I	U	E	C	K	T	O	L	I	P	L	R
T	B	V	E	T	R	D	E	R	S	L	O	I	F	E
U	E	H	N	L	N	T	R	W	D	A	W	N	E	T
M	T	I	S	A	X	H	S	N	I	B	S	O	R	S
R	O	L	L	E	R	E	C	N	A	R	F	I	A	P
P	N	G	C	A	M	E	B	U	I	T	E	S	Y	E
R	N	L	S	I	C	O	H	F	O	M	A	S	A	C
E	I	I	N	T	L	Q	R	T	L	P	G	A	K	T
P	I	T	A	L	Y	A	U	C	A	A	E	P	A	R
A	M	I	T	P	O	L	T	E	I	E	I	N	N	U
P	E	L	I	K	A	N	E	I	R	M	L	R	S	M

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Artist, Ball, Bexley, Clip, Craft, Cursive, Dawn, Design, England, Europa, Flair, France, Glide, Grip, Instrument, Ipsilon, Italic, Italy, Lacquer, Leather, Micromesh, Nakaya, Nibs, Notebook, Omas, Optima, Paper, Parker, Passion, Pelikan, Pens, Pilot, Point, Pouch, Reflessi, Roller, Sets, Spectrum, Sterling, Stroke, Style, Talentum, Tips, Torino, Wire

Yesterday s Answer: Motormouth

SALE. The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SENSATION GALAHAD

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Find today's solution in this section

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd DBA Dickerson & Quinn would like to inform all customers that
LORETTA S. BABAUTA
is no longer associated with this company. Any commitments or arrangements made by her after September 28th will not be honored.

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Saipan Tribune

JOE HILL
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670/ 234-6806/7743
FAX: 670/ 234-7753

Attorney for Plaintiff
Royal Crown Insurance Corporation

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROYAL CROWN INSURANCE CORPORATION, *Plaintiff,* vs. **GREENSTONE INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., and dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, DOROTHY P. CANILLO, ANGEL P. DERAY, SR., and MANUEL M. BANGAYAN, jointly and severally,** *Defendants.*	**Civil Action No. 08-0411-CV** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:

Dated this 31st day of October, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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A Tan Holdings Company

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Rain, Blue Jays, douse Red Sox hopes to clinch

AP

Members of the grounds crew position a tarp across the infield during a heavy rainfall at Fenway Park during the seventh inning of a baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Toronto Blue Jays in Boston, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009.

BOSTON (AP)—Toronto took advantage after Boston scratched Josh Beckett from his scheduled start by scoring seven runs off substitute Michael Bowden to beat the Red Sox 11-5 on Monday night in a game that was called in the seventh inning because of rain.

It was the fourth straight loss for Boston, which could have clinched the American League wild card with a victory and a Texas loss to Los Angeles later Monday.

Jose Bautista, Aaron Hill and Rod Barajas homered for the Blue Jays, who had lost six straight to the Red Sox and eight in a row at Fenway Park.

Scott Richmond (8-10) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings to win his second consecutive start after going 0-6 in his previous 10.

Kevin Youkilis homered twice, and David Ortiz hit one for Boston, which had one run in and two men on with no outs in the seventh when a sudden downpour stopped play. The game was called after a delay of 62 minutes.

Yankees 8, Royals 2

At New York, Robinson Cano capped a five-run seventh inning with a grand slam to lead New York's makeshift lineup past Kansas City in win No. 101.

One day after the Yankees secured their first AL East title since 2006, Ramiro Pena hit his first major league home run and Shelley Duncan had a tiebreaking single in the sixth. New York rested most of its regulars for the opener of a three-game series.

Cano's second career slam was his 25th homer this season and helped set a franchise record for most players with at least 25 in a season. He joined Mark Teixeira (38), Alex Rodriguez (28), Hideki Matsui (28) and Nick Swisher (27).

The start of the game was delayed by rain for 1 hour, 56 minutes.

Pena connected off Luke Hochevar (7-12) in the fifth, his first homer in 104 at-bats.

White Sox 6, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Gordon Beckham drove in three runs to help Chicago's John Danks beat Cleveland and earn his first win in more than a month.

Danks' first career complete game gave Chicago its third win in four games following a stretch of seven losses in eight games.

Danks (13-10) allowed three hits and one run, striking out seven in his first complete game at any level since being drafted in 2003 by Texas. Choo Shinsoo hit his 19th homer leading off the seventh to break up the left-hander's bid for his first career shutout.

Rays 7, Orioles 6

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Pat Burrell hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and pinch-hitter Willy Aybar had one of four Tampa Bay homers to extend Baltimore's losing streak to 11 games.

Ben Zobrist opened the eighth with a double off Chris Ray (0-4) and went to third on a grounder. Burrell's fly ball against Danys Baez broke 6-all tie.

Gabe Kapler, Zobrist and Evan Longoria also homered for the Rays, who are 8-5 since an 11-game skid. Tampa Bay has hit 193 homers this season, breaking the team record of 190 set in 2006.

Brian Roberts hit a two-run homer for the Orioles (60-96), who are a season-worst 36 games under .500.

Nationals 2, Mets 1

At Washington, Mike Morse homered for the third straight game as Ross Detwiler earned his first career win for Washington.

Morse broke a 1-all tie when he led off the sixth with his third homer this season, all in the past three games. During the stretch he has doubled his career total—Morse had three before Saturday, all in 2005.

Detwiler (1-6), who won in his 13th start, allowed seven hits and one run in six innings. Mike MacDougal pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Nelson Figueroa (2-8) picked up his fifth straight loss, allowing six hits and two runs in six innings.

Phillies 8, Astros 2

At Philadelphia, Yorman Bazardo pitched 5 2-3 effective innings against the team that cut him in spring training as he helped Houston beat Philadelphia in the National League, preventing the Phillies from reducing their magic number.

The Phillies, who had an 8 1/2-game lead with 13 remaining, are four ahead of Atlanta in the NL East with six left. The Phillies, who have lost five of seven, still have a magic number of three for their third straight division title.

Miguel Tejada had four hits and Jeff Keppinger had three hits and two RBIs for Houston, which is 5-0 against the Phillies this season.

Bazardo (1-2) allowed two runs and two hits to earn his third career win and first since Sept. 25, 2007, with Detroit. He entered with an 11.74 ERA in four starts this season.

Braves 4, Marlins 0

At Atlanta, Jair Jurrjens pitched seven innings and Chipper Jones homered as Atlanta beat Florida for its seventh straight win and 15th of 17 games.

The Braves closed within two games of idle Colorado in the NL wild card with six remaining. Florida's third loss in four games all but finished off the Marlins, who dropped 5 1/2 games behind the Rockies and can do no better than tie for the wild card.

Jurrjens (14-10) won his fourth straight and has gone at least seven innings in seven straight starts, allowing only eight earned runs in 50 2-3 innings (a 1.42 ERA) during that stretch.

Jones hit his 18th homer of the season and second since Aug. 29.

Pirates 11, Dodgers 1

At Pittsburgh, Andy LaRoche homered twice, doubled twice and singled, driving in six runs as last-place Pittsburgh again prevented Los Angeles from clinching the NL West.

Zach Duke pitched shutout ball into the ninth inning against a understrength Dodgers lineup. LaRoche set a career high for hits in going 5 for 5 and scoring four runs.

Already assured of a playoff spot, the Dodgers lost three of four to the Pirates, who had dropped 23 of 26 going into the series—the franchise's worst stretch in 119 seasons.

The Dodgers' magic number remained two.

LaRoche had a two-run double off Hiroki Kuroda (8-7) during the Pirates' big second inning.

Nowitzki brings carefree look into Mavs' season

AP

Dallas Mavericks forwards Dirk Nowitzki (41) and Shawn Marion (0) have some sun before a photo session during the Mavericks' NBA basketball media day at the team's practice facility, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in Dallas.

DALLAS (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki strolled back onto the scene Monday looking like a carefree surfer, his long, curly blond hair framing a wide smile.

The Mavericks forward even had a tan to boot, quite a departure from the ashen-faced All-Star who five months ago politely told reporters he didn't want to talk about the arrest at his Dallas home of a former girlfriend who said she was pregnant with his child.

Dallas was days away from elimination in the second round of the playoffs by Denver when news broke of Cristal Taylor's arrest on a theft-of-service warrant and a probation violation. The 7-footer couldn't get home to his native Germany fast enough once the season was over, but he looked just as eager to be back on media day leading into his 12th NBA season.

"He looks like he just got off the beach. How can you not look happy?" said Mavericks owner Mark Cuban. "If I could grow my hair down to my shoulders and look like I just got finished surfing, what's not to like? That's just Dirk."

The 38-year-old Taylor is now serving a four-year prison sentence in Missouri on the probation violation. Nowitzki's attorney says prison records show Taylor isn't pregnant, apparently clearing the way for Nowitzki to focus solely on basketball again.

First, though, he tried to answer the questions he didn't want to address when the news was so fresh, although he says he still prefers to skip most of the details.

Nowitzki said he felt a "roller coaster" of emotions, including anger and sadness. Still, he was surprised to discover that the episode didn't consume his thoughts the way he figured it would. Within weeks, he said he could make it through a day without dwelling on the messy breakup.

He said the support of Cuban, the Mavericks and his family helped him through the emotional times, then he was taken aback during the summer by countless letters of support from fans who wrote of similar experiences.

"Just reading that made me feel great. You're not the only guy that went through a tough time in life," Nowitzki said. "That was really special."

Now, the 31-year-old former MVP said his goal is not to let the incident change him.

"I was really not the kind of guy that walked around and trusted everybody anyway. But it still happened," Nowitzki said. "I'm not going to change who I am. I'll always have fun with people. Obviously my goal is still to have a family sooner or later, so I'd better start trusting somebody here soon."

Nowitzki's mind is back on basketball after his first summer without playing competitively in about a decade. That included about a nine-week stretch of doing basically nothing, which Nowitzki acknowledged wasn't by accident.

The Mavericks made some big changes while he was gone. The biggest move was maintaining the status quo by re-upping with point guard Jason Kidd for three years. But they also altered the dynamic of their lineup by trading for Shawn Marion to try to solve matchup problems they believe have dogged them in recent years.

Dallas also added Drew Gooden, and there's talk of him becoming an offensive alternative to Erick Dampier at center.

Still, it all starts with Nowitzki, who averaged 36 points in the three games after Taylor's arrest but couldn't stop the Nuggets from rolling to a 4-1 series victory.

"I just think that showed me that I'm mentally tougher than a lot of people think," Nowitzki said. "I played through that. I played through injuries. I may not be the most physically tough player, but I think mentally I'm right up there."

Always protective of personal matters, Nowitzki doesn't want to test his mental toughness that way again. While he most assuredly has the typical goals of shooting better, rebounding better and playing better defense, he offers a unique area where wants to improve.

"Hopefully I can do a better job of keeping my private life out of the media," Nowitzki said.

Cowboys' D leads way to win over Panthers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Leading, but not by much, Tony Romo and the Dallas Cowboys were desperately in need of a big play.

Jake Delhomme helped them make several.

Terence Newman returned an interception 27 yards for a lead-stretching touchdown with 5:07 left, then rookie linebacker Victor Butler got two sacks and forced a fumble on the next series, sending Dallas to a 21-7 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Monday night.

Considering the Cowboys were coming off a last-second loss in the opener of their $1.15 billion stadium, a crowd of 90,588 was especially tense until the defense put the game away. The biggest sigh of relief likely came from team owner Jerry Jones.

"It certainly does feel good," Jones said. "The way it went so early, it just felt like maybe we ought to check this thing out for Grim Reapers living in the back someplace."

Dallas (2-1) trailed 7-0 at halftime and was booed by fans. Although the defense was playing well and running backs Felix Jones and Tashard Choice were easing the load on Romo, the quarterback was being so careful to avoid the mistakes that doomed the Cowboys the previous week that the offense struggled to turn long drives into points.

When Romo threw a pair of incompletions from the 1-yard line midway through the fourth quarter, Dallas was up by only six points. Then Newman stepped in front of a pass to Steve Smith, darted toward the right corner of the end zone and dived in. Butler capped the night with his pair of sacks and the turnover, giving the Cowboys three of each after not having any of either over the first two weeks.

"Everybody on the outside was pressing the panic button, but not us," linebacker Bradie James said. "We knew we had a bunch of ball left to play. There was still a lot of time to improve."

The Panthers sure hope so.

After going 12-4 and winning their division, they're 0-3 and headed into a bye week. This is their worst start since 0-7 in 1998 and Delhomme has seven interceptions, seven sacks and two fumbles.

"We have lots of football left," coach John Fox said. "We're not even a quarter through the season. We've had three-loss skids before. We have to stick together."

Smith insisted Delhomme wasn't to blame for the game-breaking mistake. Fox said a slant was called and Smith said he changed the route.

"I put Jake in a bad situation," Smith said. "The bottom line is that I (hurt) Jake."

Delhomme was 22 of 33 for 220 yards, but here are the only numbers that mattered: Carolina's six second-half drives ended with four punts, an interception and a fumble.

The effort showed what Cowboys coach-defensive coordinator Wade Phillips thought his unit was capable of doing. They showed they could stop the pass in the opener, then showed they could stop the run in the second game. This time, they put it all together, with Mike Jenkins coming up with a first-half interception and Jay Ratliff getting the season's first sack.

Their only blemish was a 90-yard drive just before halftime that put the Panthers up 7-0. Even with that, Carolina had only 271 yards and 15 first downs. The Panthers were 1 of 8 on third downs.

"Before the game we talked about how our defensive line and linebackers did their job last week and how we didn't do our job," Newman said. "So I told them 'Hey it's on us. We've got to shut these guys down.' We let this team down last week and we have to make up for it this week."

Dallas was without running back Marion Barber because of a bruised thigh, but hardly missed him as fill-in starter Felix Jones broke off plays of 16, 18 and 20 yards on the first two drives. Yet Romo failed to turn them into any points and the Cowboys went into halftime without any points and hearing a lot of boos from a crowd that was louder than last week, even though there were 15,000 fewer people, because the retractable roof and end-zone doors were closed.

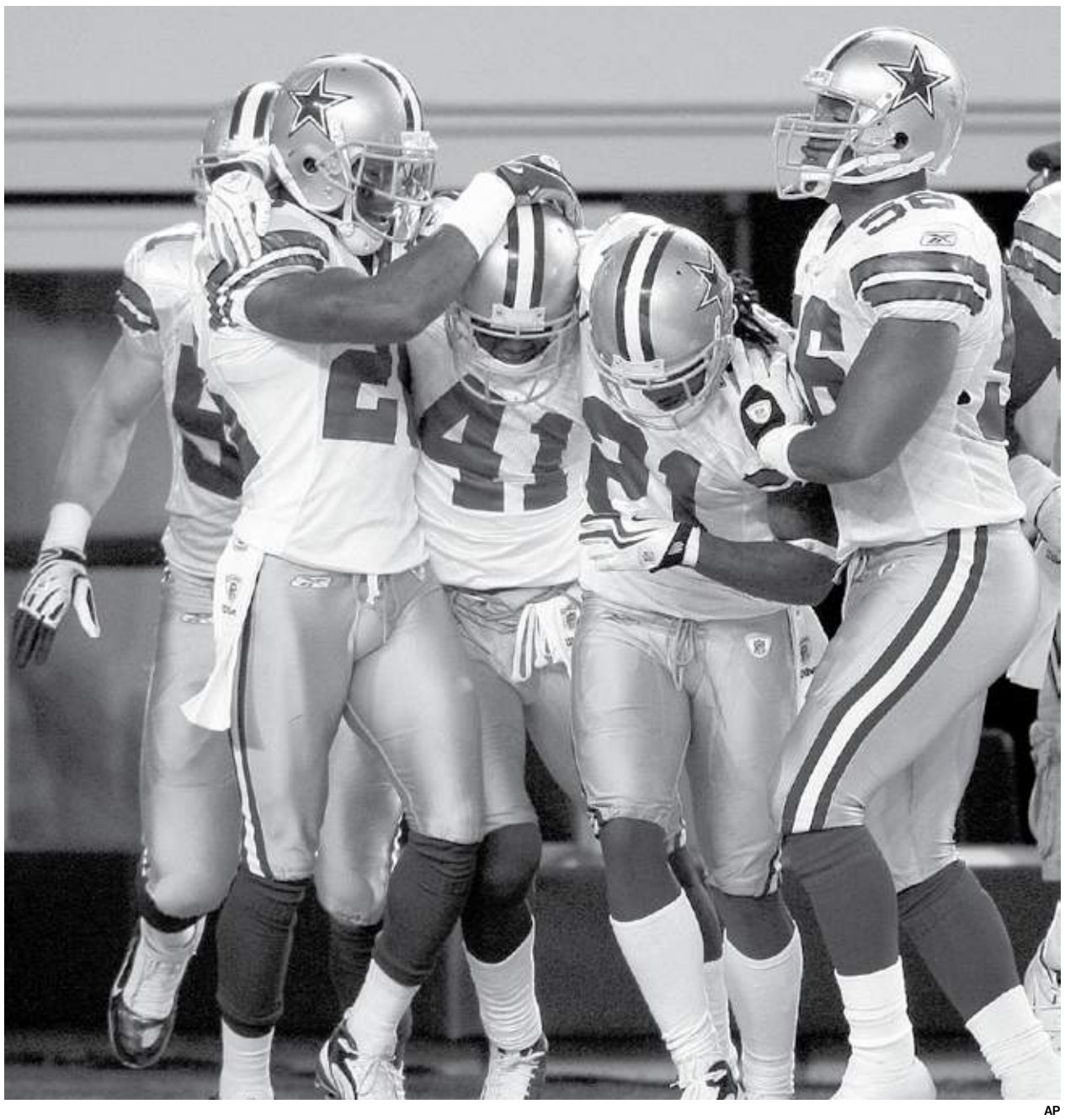
Romo was 22 of 33 for 255 yards with no touchdowns and no turnovers. He didn't throw many deep balls, rarely threw into traffic and often looked for his security blanket, tight end Jason Witten (nine catches for 77 yards) as he regained his footing following the second-worst passer rating of his career.

"It's all about improving and doing it on the field," Romo said. "That was my sole focus this week, to understand why I did certain things and not make those mistakes again, and come out and be a better quarterback and help this team win."

Jones finished with 94 yards on only eight carries, and another 20 yards on a pass before leaving with a strained left knee in the third quarter.

Choice had 82 yards on 18 carries, including a touchdown. He also caught four passes for 36 yards.

Dallas' Nick Folk ended a streak of 16 straight field goals by missing a 40-yarder on the opening drive, but made kicks of 24 and 19 in the second half.



AP

Dallas Cowboys safety Ken Hamlin, left, cornerback Terence Newman (41), cornerback Mike Jenkins (21) and linebacker Bradie James (56) celebrate Newman's interception that he returned for a touchdown against the Carolina Panthers in the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009.

Pennington may seek 2nd opinion on shoulder

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—Chad Pennington may not be available to give his winless team a much-needed lift.

The Miami Dolphins quarterback dislocated his right shoulder and may seek a second opinion to determine how long he'll be sidelined, a person familiar with his status said Monday.

The person insisted on anonymity because the Dolphins have said little about the injury. Teammates braced for a new quarterback, with backup Chad Henne expected to make his first NFL start in Sunday's home game against Buffalo.

Other media outlets reported Pennington had a torn capsule and was likely to miss the rest of the season.

"We don't have a comment, because the evaluation process is still ongoing," team spokesman Harvey Greene said.

Pennington hurt his shoulder Sunday in a 23-13 loss at San Diego, and he underwent tests Monday to determine the extent of the damage. An operation on the shoulder would be Pennington's third since 2005.

The quarterback shakeup comes with the Dolphins already reeling. They're 0-3 after Pennington led an improbable run to the AFC East title last season.

Henne, a second-round draft choice in 2008, has been considered Pennington's heir apparent for more than a year.

"We're going to have to go out there with Henne, who is a lot less experienced," tight end Anthony Fasano said. "There is definitely going to be a learning curve for Henne. He can learn as much as he wants in a classroom, but until he's out on the field, in-game experience he's not going to learn.

"But we have a lot of faith in Chad. He's a smart guy, a great leader and fun to play with. We're just going to have to move on."

Pennington had surgery on the same shoulder to repair a torn rotator cuff twice in 2005. Coach Tony Sparano said he didn't know how long Pennington would be sidelined.

"I can't rule anything out," Sparano said. "I really don't know the details. ... We're trying to gather a little bit more information."

The most accurate passer in NFL history, Pennington is in the final year of a two-year contract, and a serious injury could leave his career in jeopardy at age 33.

The score was 3-all when Pennington was hurt early in the third quarter. He missed the rest of the game, and Henne went 10 for 19 for 92 yards. He led the Dolphins to 10 points but threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

The challenge for the offense will be to develop a chemistry with Henne, receiver Greg Camarillo said.

"Chad (Pennington) is our leader," Camarillo said. "Any injury to him is an injury to our offense. But it's also an opportunity for Henne to step up. We've got faith in his quarterbacking abilities. It's time for him to show it off."

Pennington was hurt on a hit by linebacker Kevin Burnett as he threw a pass. The injury appeared to occur with the contact, which caught Pennington in an awkward position, rather than when he hit the ground, Sparano said.

"Kind of a weird-looking deal," Sparano said.

Linebacker Joey Porter, nursing a sore right hamstring, also was unable to finish the game because the muscle tightened. Sparano said Porter will be evaluated this week.

The injuries are another blow for a team rapidly regressing after a great leap forward in 2008, when Pennington helped the Dolphins improve their victory total by 10 games and win the AFC East. Now playoff hopes are fading fast - only three teams since 1990 have gone to the postseason after losing its first three games.

Sparano said lineup changes are possible.

"I told this team yesterday, it's not OK to be 0-3," he said. "It's not acceptable. If there's a place where we can shake some things up, we will."

The biggest lineup change may be at quarterback, but not because of a demotion.

Pennington was chosen NFL Comeback Player of the Year in 2008 and tied for second behind Peyton Manning in the vote for MVP. But he has never put together consecutive productive seasons, in large part because of injuries.

"Staying healthy is my No. 1 goal," Pennington said before the season.

He has missed time during his 10 years in the NFL with career-threatening shoulder injuries in 2004 and 2005, as well as a wrist injury that sidelined him for six games in 2003.

Henne would be the 14th starting quarterback for Miami since Dan Marino retired following the 1999 season. In the most extensive action of his brief career Sunday, Henne struggled with his accuracy and made a poor decision on the interception but showed good composure, Sparano said.

"I don't think at any point during the game he was flustered," Sparano said. "His look and demeanor for going into the game at that point were very good, and his handle of the offense was pretty good."

Dolphins tackle Jake Long, who played with Henne at Michigan, said everyone on the offense has confidence in the young quarterback.

"He's poised. He's a leader," Long said. "When he gets his chance, he's going to do good."

Co-ed Frisbee tournament this Saturday

The Saipan Ultimate Frisbee Club will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a co-ed tournament this Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Marpi baseball field.

The tournament is open to players of all levels. Teams will be chosen at random on the morning of the event. Final registration is at 5pm on Oct. 2.

The first game of the co-ed tournament on Oct. 3 starts at 10am and the championship game is scheduled at 5:30pm.

Several players will warm-up that morning by participating in the SIS 5K Fun Run at Banzai Cliff at 7am.

Some of the veteran players on island are Dale Roberts, Bruce Berline, Yosh Gabaldon, Chris Nelson, Hee Jae Lee, Dave Banes, Pete Houk, Nick Gross, Tyce Mister, Russ Quinn, Todd Montgomery, Scott Hayden, Kristina Springer, Rob Jordan, Bill Owens, Semesi Betevua, David Steinberg, Peter Bonser, and Rob Epley.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Ultimate Frisbee Club pose for a keepsake following a recent competition.

Highlights for the club include a fourth place finish out of 25 teams in the Manila Spirits Tournament in 2006, runner-up at the Nusantra Cup International Tournament in Bali, and a perfect 10 wins and no losses against rival Guam.

Around 20 men and 10 women currently play each week. Pick-up games take place every Friday at 5pm at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

The Saipan Ultimate Frisbee Club would like to thank Gatorade, Miller Lite, Bobby Cadillac's, Marianas Trekking, and B-SEA SUNSPORTS for contributing to this event. ***(PR)***

CPA

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baskets in the closing minutes of the second canto to post a five-point lead at the break.

A 10-0 start in the third period helped CPA-Accounting pull away with Cloud escaping with a couple of fastbreak layups and Diaz hitting a few outside shots. When the third quarter ended, CPA-Accounting increased its lead to double digits, 48-37, and Bank of Guam never recovered.

The loss was Bank of Guam's sixth in nine games, while CPA-Accounting improved to a 2-5 record.

In the first game, Docomo gained its fourth win in six matches with Kae Bernardo leading the team's 23-point win. Bernardo drilled 31 points, while five other Docomo players also finished in double figures. Kelvin Fitial chipped in 16, James Villacrusis added 14, Syl Teregeyo made 12, and Wowie Abuel and Jun Estolas contributed 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

Docomo was behind most of the time in the first half before Bernardo scored 17 of his total points in the third period to lead the team's uphill climb. Fitial added seven in that period to put Docomo in the lead, 70-56, entering the final canto.

Bernardo picked up where he left off in the fourth period, adding 10 more points to hand DCCA its fourth loss in eight games.

Elias Rangamar led DCCA's losing cause, recording 24 points. However, he was held to only one field goal in the third period when Docomo started to catch fire. Docomo outgunned DCCA in the third, 37-15, to steal the win.

First Game

NTT Docomo 97– Bernardo 31, Fitial 16, Villacrusis 15, Teregeyo 13, Abuel 12, Estolas 10.

DCCA 74 – Rangamar 25, Van Buren 14, P. Camacho 12, Benavente 8, Rogolifoi 7, Flores 5, Young 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 33-41, 70-56, 97-74.

Second Game

CPA 71– Cloud 24, Diaz 17, Apelo 8, Yangilmao 8, Schuler 6, Camacho 4, Aaron 4

Bank of Guam 53– Peters 15, Iguel 8, Pelisamen 8, G.Palacios 7, Taisacan 6, Mendiola 4, D.Palacios, Taitano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-17, 26-21, 48-37, 71-53.

ESPANA

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C singles finals against fellow youngster Ezekiel Macario.

Espana drew first blood, taking the closely fought opening set, 22-20, before Macario bounced back in the second set, 21-19, to force a deciding game. After two neck-and-neck sets, Espana managed to pull away and nail a 21-14 win in the third set to take the men's C singles title.

Earlier, Espana advanced to the finals after sweeping Luis Camacho in the semis, 21-18, 21-18. Macario had a similar straight sets victory over Manatsu Omori in the other semis match, 21-13, 21-19, to set a title game against Espana. Omori beat Camacho in the consolation match, 21-11, 21-12, to save third place.

Joining Espana in the champions list are the pairs of Joey Algenio and Riza Yutuc and Ferdie Arago and Janis Parcon.

Algenio and Yutuc notched the mixed C doubles title via a three-set win over Elna Curate and Espana, while Arago and Parcon needed only two sets to clinch the mixed B doubles crown against the tandem of Jorge Olanda and Marlene Peraja.

A 21-18 triumph in the first set moved Algenio and Yutuc closer to the title, but Curate and Espana kept their title bid alive with a big 21-12 win in the second set. Algenio and Yutuc then denied Espana's bid for a second championship in the IT&E-sponsored tournament with a methodical 21-15 victory in the deciding third set.

Curate and Espana gained a finals set after a three-set win over the duo of Puy Macario and Annette Quiambao in the semis, 16-21, 21-16, 21-15. The other semis pairing saw Algenio and Yutuc having an easier time against the team of Chris Hilario and Annette Ta, 21-8, 21-16. Ta and Hilario settled for third after thumping Quiambao and Puy Macario, 21-16, 21-15.

Arago and Parcon had a smooth cruise to the Promised Land when they defeated Olanda and Peraja in straight sets in the mixed B finals, 21-15, 21-12.

The newly crowned mixed B champions made it to the finals after whipping Noli Santos and Anna Rose Omori in the semis, 21-9, 21-17. In the other semis duel, Olanda and Peraja were paired against Roger Vales and Malou Malasarte and also won in straight sets, 21-18, 21-17.

Action in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-sanctioned tournament will continue this weekend with the remaining playoff games in the men's A and B singles, women's B and C singles, and mixed doubles A divisions.

Keno San Pablo and Santos will duel for the men's B singles crown after nailing contrasting semifinals wins. San Pablo prevailed in straight sets in the semis over Vales, 21-16, 21-11, while Santos needed an extra set to thwart James Digno in the other Final Four pairing, 21-18, 19-21, 21-17. Digno and Vales were relegated to the battle for third place.

FIJI

From Page 28

loss over the Cook Islands. Fiji is in third, followed by the Cook Islands.

Six records fall

At the conclusion of the athletics competition over the weekend, six records were made, according to the online version of the Cook Islands News.

Tonga's Ana Pouhila shattered the record in the women's discus throw (51.6 meters) with her 53.1 meters.

Other new record holders are sprint queen Makelesi Bulikiobo (100m), Leslie Copeland (javelin), Niko Verekauta (men's 200m), and Frederic Erin (men's long jump and triple jump).

Athletes, officials disappointed on Solomons withdrawal

A few days after Solomon Islands pulled out its bid for the 2015 Pacific Games, which Papua New Guinea will eventually host after beating Tonga in the close bid, Solomon Islands athletes and officials expressed their disappointment over the withdrawal.

According to the Cook Islands News, Team Solomon athletics coach Martin Rara said the decision will not help the future development of its athletes.

"If we would have had the bid on and won the rights to host the Games, there would have been infrastructure and development taking place due to the hosting of the Games. We would have had new sporting facilities. And these new facilities would have been a good use for the development of our current and future athletes," Rara was quoted as saying in the Cook Islands News online edition.

Rara said the decision to pull out from the Pacific Games bid was made by the government and the Solomon Islands National Olympic Committee was not informed of this action.

"We were not formally informed why the government had opted out from the bid," he said.

FUTSAL

From Page 28

Futsal is an indoor version of soccer. Each team has five players playing on the court that is roughly the same size as a basketball court. It is a game that helps develop players' techniques and skills, and put emphasis on ball control and short passes.

To prepare female strikers for the fall league, the NMIFA Women's Committee organized a two-hour boot camp on Saturday at the Saipan International School grounds.

"Twenty girls attended the clinic. It was a little rainy, so I think that may have been a factor for a lower turn out than usual," CNMI Women's National Team goalie and NMIFA Women's Committee official Rebecca Newman said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*. "Fifteen of the 20 girls there are new to the sport and I would say eight were high school students."

Newman and teammate Emily Gries led the boot camp, teaching newcomers and old-timers the basics of the indoor soccer game.

"Emily led everyone in warm-ups, followed by drills for passing and dribbling. The futsal ball is much harder than a regular ball, and the girls were surprised at how quickly it rolls across the pavement compared to a regular soccer ball moving in grass," Newman added.

Newman said last weekend was only the first and last boot camp they had and despite the limited preparation time, they are still hoping to attract more players for the fall league.

"We are hoping each team will be able to submit a minimum of one competitive team and one recreational team, since we are having two different leagues this season. Registration is open through the end of this week," Newman said.

Games in the futsal league will be played every Saturday morning at the NMC Gym and the season is scheduled to conclude on Dec. 20.

For more information, contact Women's Committee director Lindsay Davis at lindsayfrombigsky@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	101		56	.643 —
Boston	91	65	.583	9 1/2
Tampa Bay	80	76	.513	20 1/2
Toronto	73	84	.465	28
Baltimore	60	96	.385	40 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	83	72	.535	—
Minnesota	81	74	.523	2
Chicago	76	81	.484	8
Cleveland	64	92	.410	19 1/2
Kansas City	64	93	.408	20

West Division

y-Los Angeles	92	64	.590	—
Texas	85	71	.545	7
Seattle	80	76	.513	12
Oakland	75	81	.481	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	90	66	.577	—
Atlanta	86	70	.551	4
Florida	83	74	.529	7 1/2
New York	67	90	.427	23 1/2
Washington	53	103	.340	37

Central Division

y-St. Louis	90	66	.577	—
Chicago	81	74	.523	8 1/2
Milwaukee	77	79	.494	13
Cincinnati	74	82	.474	16
Houston	73	83	.468	17
Pittsburgh	59	96	.381	30 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	64	.592	—
Colorado	88	68	.564	4 1/2
San Francisco	83	73	.532	9 1/2
San Diego	72	85	.459	21
Arizona	68	88	.436	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 11, L.A. Dodgers 1
Houston 8, Philadelphia 2
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 4, Florida 0
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 1
N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 2
Minnesota at Detroit, ppd., rain
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 6
Toronto 11, Boston 5 innings
L.A. Angels 11, Texas 0

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	64	33
New England	2	1	0	.667	60	50
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	64	72
Miami	0	3	0	.000	43	69

South

Indianapolis	3	0	0	1.000	72	45
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	60	69
Houston	1	2	0	.333	65	86
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	58	71

North

Baltimore	3	0	0	1.000	103	53
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	61	56
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	.333	47	50
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	29	95

West

Denver	3	0	0	1.000	62	16
San Diego	2	1	0	.667	73	64
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	36	57
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	48	85

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	80	48
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	86	61
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	94	72
Washington	1	2	0	.333	40	49

South

New Orleans	3	0	0	1.000	120	56
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	57	53
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	37	87
Tampa Bay	0	3	0	.000	41	91

North

Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	88	57
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	81	63
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	57	54
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	59	86

West

San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	67	53
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	57	48
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	57	68
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	24	73

Yesterday's Game

Dallas 21, Carolina 7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ CAGE STANDINGS

IT&E	9	0
Hyatt	3	0
Tinian	4	1
Docomo	4	2
MBI	5	3
CHC	3	3
PSS	5	4
DCCA	3	5
BOG	3	6
CPA	2	5
Customs	1	3
ARFF	0	9

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	3	0
Sonics	5	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	3	2
670 Rollers 2	2	2
Rollers 1	2	2
CK Saints	2	2
Ol'Aces	1	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	3
Hi-5	0	3
Celtics	0	4

Sixers deal Sonics' first loss in Rotary caging

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Sixers hurdled one of their strongest opponents last Monday night after snapping the Sonics' five-game winning run in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics failed to sustain a good start by blowing a six-point lead midway in the first half as the Sixers recovered quickly and closed out with a 33-25 lead going into the second half.

"They went ahead early but after we adjusted our defense we went all the way with our fastbreak offense," said Sixers coach Ray Duenas.

Joe Ada consistently penetrated the lanes and barreled in a game-high 27 points.

Matt Duenas shot 14 makers, while Novo Pepito and Nathan Flores added 10 points each.

Sonics streak shooter Bryan Ajoste cornered 25 but his team suffered its first defeat after winning their first five games.

"We had good defense too from our back-up players," Duenas assessed.

He said he told his boys to take shots as often as they can and get fouls.

"We're fortunate but I give credit to Sonics coach (Jesse Tudela) for this good game. They really have a good team this year but we came out to win," he said.

He said both team can afford to have a loss each at this point in the season as they enter the stretch.

Both teams now share second place with identical 5-1 win-loss records.

Duenas said the team will aim for the pennant, and the win over the Sonics was important for that goal.

"We have a big chance. If we can beat the G-Stars, we can make it," Duenas said.

The G-Stars are now the only unbeaten team with a 3-0 record.

Ada scored back-to-back baskets on fastbreak plays as the Sixers posted their biggest lead of 13 points,55-42, with 6:45 left to play.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Sixers' Jose Ada drives against the Sonics frontline of Melvin Cadiang, Adrian Palacios, and Daemin Jeon during their Rotary cage game last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ajoste shot eight in the Sonics' 12-6 run to cut the lead to seven points, 54-61, but ran out of time as the Sixers took advantage of two ball possessions by consuming the game clock.

Matt Duenas scored more from underneath for the final score with barely five ticks to go.

Last Friday, G-Stars scored yet another easy win, this time beating the Young 670 Rollers, 58-32, to keep its unblemished record in the Rotary caging

The win was G-Stars' third in as many games as they dealt Young 670 Rollers its third straight defeat.

Ed Manalili and Marvin Rabauliman fired 13 and 11 points, respectively to lead G-Stars, while Savali Talalemoto and John Cenir made nine and seven for the Rollers.

Despite the win, G-Stars coach Joe Tumaquip is still not sure about their chances for the championship this year.

"Our game is improving but we still need a lot of practice. We have to take one game at a time," Tumaquip said.

Meanwhile, the Celtics' Tim Taguchi continued to pad the individual scoring lead with 17 points per game as of Sept. 26.

Bryan Ajoste of league-leading Sonics (5-0) is in second with a 16.4 points per game clip, while Richard Wang of Rollers is third with 15 points per game average.

The other players in the Top 10 are Josh Kiyoshi of the Runnin' Rebels (12.45 ppg.), Marvin Rabauliman of G-Stars (12.67 ppg.), Joe Ada of the Sixers (12 ppg.), Eugene Manglona of the Sparks (11.4 ppg.), Trevor Ogumoro of Ol'Aces (10.4 ppg.), Gary Macahito of Hi-5 (10 ppg.), and Luther Taylor of Ol'Aces (9.8 ppg.).

Monday's Games

Sixers 63 – Ada, M. Duenas 14, Pepito 10, Flores 10, C. Duenas 2, Salas 2, Benavente 1.

Sonics 54 – Ajoste 25, Daemon Jeon 6, Ecalnea 6, Palacios 6, Daemin Jeon 4, Fema 3, Cadiang 2, Darag 2.

Scoring by halves: 33-25, 63-54.

Friday's Games

G-Stars 58 – E. Manalili 13, Rabauliman 11, Kinty 7, Jung 6, D. Mateo 6, Crisostomo 6, Castro 2, F. Manalili 2, Devero 2, Concepcion 2

Young 670 Rollers 32 – Talalemoto 9, Cenir 7, Deleon Guerrero 4, Barry 4, Palacios 3, Norita 2, Baka 2, Teregoyo 1

Scoring by halves: 31-20, 58-32.

Advance champs again in 3rd KQOD qualifier

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Reliever Eric Palacios singled to send Roy Celis home in the bottom seventh as Advance X-Terminators escaped with a 12-11 win over Team Saipal in the championship game of the third qualifying round of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament last Saturday at the Capital Ball Field.

The X-Terminators recovered from a 9-11 deficit after Payton Sakuma tripled and sent Vic Dukor and Hector Efraim to home plate that gave Saipal the lead in the top of seventh.

After that Celis hit a two run-single with one out, Bob Lizama and Thelma Mizer scored to tie the score at 11-all.

Manny Sablan and Popo Tudela advanced via base on ball and the bases were loaded.

Then came Palacios' huge single and Celis dashed off to home plate for the go-ahead run and the X-Terminators won their third straight title this year.

They also won the first qualifying round over Kulan Zamu on June 13-14 and the second round over Natibu On Aug. 1-2.

Only five teams joined the third round namely Advance X-Terminators, Saipal, Natibu, Banzai, and Kulan Zamu.

Banzai opened its campaign with a 11-7 victory over Saipal.

Natibu leaned on Doru Camacho's double that board Bruce Norita home in the bottom fourth as the team defeated Banzai, 3-2.

The X-Terminators started the day with a 7-3 win over Kulan Zamu but not before lagging behind 0-3 in the fourth inning.

Kulan Zamu's steadied himself on the mound and struck out 12 of the X-Terminators first 12 players on bat.

It was only in the bottom fifth that the X-Terminators were able to get their act together by scoring all their runs there for the win.

Saipal bounced back with a 8-4 win over Banzai.

The X-Terminators picked up another hard-earned win over Natibu, 8-7, as Celis singled to send Ben Mesa home in the bottom seventh for the win and a spot on the championship game.

Saipal took the second championship spot via wins over Kulan Zamu, 6-4, and Natibu, 7-5.

Like in the previous qualifying rounds, the third round champion got a trophy and five cases of beer, the second finisher took a trophy and three cases of beer, and the third placer won a trophy and two cases of beer.

After the third round, all the second and third place teams that played at least two rounds will take part in a consolation round tourney (Round 4) to be played on Oct. 3-4.

The Tournament of Champions-Saipan Leg will be held from Oct. 17 to 18 with the winner of Round 5 to represent the CNMI in the 2009 Budweiser KQOD softball tournament of champions, which will be hosted by Saipan for the second time on Nov. 12-15.

KQOD champion teams from Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and Saipan will compete for championship.

Saures wins RGA Sept. Ace tourney

Joe Saures topped the Refaluwasch Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort last Sunday after no one was able to beat the net 66 he fired in the qualifier two weeks earlier.

The closest challenge came from Ulysis Kapileo, who fired a net 67 following a gross of 88. The 21-handicapper had a 47 in the front and a 41 in the back.

Jay Choi came in second Sunday when his 43 front and 41 back gave him an 84 gross, which minus his 14 handicap, allowed him to finish with a net 70.

Manny Mangarero returned from celebrating Chief Aghurubw Day on Managaha Island a day before by coming in third with his net 74. The nine-handicapper's score was built around a 41-40 and gross of 81.

Ray Tigilau and Jesse Seman complete the Top 5 Sunday's tourney with gross cores of 74 (47-43, 90) and 76 (38-46, 84), respectively.

The rest of the players took part in the September Ace, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Tars Olopai (77), Lou Tilipao (79), Tony Rogolofoi (79), Tom Tebuteb (80), Ray Villagomez (81), Jordon Kosam (83), Dwain Stephen (84), and Carl Hocog (84).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joe Saures in action during the Refaluwasch Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament last Sunday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

As for Saures, the high scorer of the qualifier last Oct. 13 could only muster a net 81 last Sunday, but the net 66 he carded two weeks prior was good enough to qualify him for the yearend RGA Club of Championship in December.

RGA also reminded the club's monthly champion who have aspirations to play in the Club Championship, that they need to play in at least six rounds of either the club's qualifiers or monthly aces to be eligible for the yearend competition.

In related news, the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic will be held on Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The tournament will adopt a double peoria format with the champion pocketing $500. Aside from the champion winning a cash prize, the runner-up will get $400, third place $300, fourth place 200, and fifth and sixth places $100 apiece.

A $200 reward also awaits lowest gross for men and women, while other competitions such as a skills challenge (holes No. 6 and 15) and closest to the pin (holes No. 3, 8, and 12) will also be held.

Mulligans will be available at $5 a pop, with players only allowed to purchase a maximum of two. No restriction will be used from tee to green.

Donation for the tournament is $80 and its proceeds will be donated to Tanapag Elementary School. Check-in time for the RGA Memorial Classic is set at 6am with tee off scheduled an hour and 30 minutes later at 7:30am.

For more information on tomorrow's September Ace and next month's RGA Memorial Classic, contact Kosam at 483-4506. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

DCCA pads lead in Inter-Govt Dart League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Teams from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Customs, and three other agencies defeated their respective rivals in the opening round of the Inaugural Bud Light Inter-Government Dart League last Friday.

Four of the five teams that played at home won against guest teams.

Naked Fish DCCA Dart Vaders gave the visiting The Flair Public School System Haas Mode a severe 12-3 beating and seized the solo lead in the 11-team field league, which is supervised by the Saipan Electronic Darts Association and sponsored by MARPAC.

Each team adopted its own home court from the different sports bars and watering hole on Saipan.

The Flair Customs Status Quo also stormed to an impressive 11-4 victory over the visiting Naked Fish Hopwood/PSS to establish itself one of the early favorites in the league.

Bud's Bar Department of Public Safety Enforcers knocked out the visiting Wild Bill's PSS Assassins, 10-5.

The other home team that won was Jonny's Department of Public Works Trouble Shooters. It barged into the winners' column via a hard-earned 8-7 decision against Bud's Bar Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Sande Bar Mayor's Office Bull Dozers became the only visiting team to take a win by pounding the D'Pirates Northern Marianas College Proa, 10-5.

Remington's Coastal Resource Management Office Spartans was on a bye and will host CUC Team in the second round on Oct. 2.

Other games for next Friday will be Customs Status Quo vs. PSS Haas Mode; DPS Enforcers vs. Mayor's Bull Dozers; Hopwood PSS All In vs. DPW Trouble Shooters, and PSS Assains vs. DCCA Dart Vaders. NMC Proa will be on a bye.

Rain, Blue Jays, douse Red Sox hopes to clinch

Toronto took advantage after Boston scratched Josh Beckett from his scheduled start by scoring seven runs off substitute Michael Bowden to beat the Red Sox 11-5 on Monday night. 24

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Sports

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CPA starts streak, Docomo wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CPA-Accounting booked back-to-back wins in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, while NTT Docomo quickly regained its form after cruising to easy wins on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CPA-Accounting, which entered the win column via a 59-53 upset over NTT Docomo on Sept. 23, is now on a two-game winning streak after thrashing Bank of Guam in the second game, 71-53.

In the first game, Docomo recovered from a loss last week with a 97-74 demolition of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Jeff Cloud led CPA-Accounting's come-from-behind victory, firing 24 points, while former national player Ed Diaz chipped in 17.

Despite getting a good game from Cloud, CPA-Accounting trailed in the first period, as Pete Iguel and Randy Pelisamen hit their targets early for Bank of Guam to give their team a 17-12 lead.

Things slowed down for Bank of Guam in the second period, allowing CPA-Accounting to grab the driver's seat at halftime, 26-21. Bank of Guam was held to only two field goals in the second quarter, one each from Iguel and Charlie Peters. CPA-Accounting was also sluggish, but made successive

See CPA on Page 26

CPA-Accounting's Jeff Cloud dribbles out of the defense of two Bank of Guam players during their game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiji keeps medal lead on slow day

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Athletes returned to action in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on Monday (Tuesday on Saipan) and with seven events playing only elimination games, Fiji kept its hold to the top spot in the overall medal tally.

Fiji has earned 21 gold medals, 12 silver, and 15 bronze to remain in the lead for three straight days since taking over the No. 1 spot from Tahiti on Friday.

Tahiti also has gained 48 medals, but is only in second place with its 19-16-13 gold-silver-bronze tally. Defending champion and 2011 Pacific Games host New Caledonia is in third place with 15 gold medals, 12 silver and 13 bronze, while Mini Games host Cook Islands has a 7-9-8 tally. Tonga completes the Top 5 with its four gold medals, six silver, and, three bronze.

After taking a break on Sunday, the Mini Games resumed action with preliminary games in tough rugby, lawn tennis, table tennis, squash, sailing, rugby league 7, and lawn balls.

In the much-anticipated rugby league 7, Samoa is ahead on points differential with its one win-two draw record. Samoa won over Tonga, 18-12, before forcing Fiji and Cook Islands to draws, 20-20 and 16-16.

Tonga is in second place with its 24-20 win over Fiji and 22-28

See FIJI on Page 26

Espana leads winners list in badminton tilt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five were crowned champions in the 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament after pulling off separate wins in the playoffs over the weekend at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

First on the list was youth player Rodwealth Espana, who prevailed in the men's

See ESPANA on Page 26

Rodwealth Espana is seen here returning a shot near the net during one of his round-robin games in the men's C singles division of the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2009 at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Futsal league still open for registration

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI futsal players are seen here playing against Guam. Futsal action returns on Saipan next week with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association holding a fall league at the NMC Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Female players interested in joining the 2009 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League have until this week to register for the indoor event that will kick off at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium on Oct. 10.

Players can join one of the five registered football clubs (MP United, Paire Football Club, Matansa Football Club, Independents Football Club, and Tan Holdings Football Club) or organize their own team. Registration fee is $25 per player, who did not join last season's 11 aside league. Female strikers who competed in the 11 aside event can register for the futsal league for free.

See FUTSAL on Page 26